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History of Lee County, Ill.

HISTORY  
OF  
LEE COUNTY  
ILLINOIS

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By FRANK E. STEVENS

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ILLUSTRATED

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VOLUME I

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CHICAGO  
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FRANK J. STEVENS



# History of Lee County, Illinois

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## CHAPTER I

### THE INDIANS

With the beginning of civilization in Lee county, Rock river was the dividing line between the Winnebagoes and the Pottawatomies, the former to the west of the river, the latter to the east, and southerly to the Illinois river. Down stream the Winnebagoes occupied the country as far as the prophet's village, now Prophetstown in Whiteside county.

Farther down the Sacs and Foxes occupied the country and their village, about two miles from the mouth, was the largest Indian village in Northern Illinois and one of the largest in the state. Of course these four tribes intermingled and intermarried in a measure and to that extent dwelt together in harmony.

To state arbitrarily what Indians first occupied Lee county would subject the writer to ridicule. It will be my design therefore in looking backward after the earlier aborigines to use the earliest written information: "Charlevoix," annotated by that eminent and accurate scholar, John Gilmary Shea; "The Jesuit Relations," annotated by Reuben Gold Thwaites; "Handbook of American Indians," by Frederick Webb Hodge; the "Wisconsin Historical Collections"; "Schoolcraft," McKenney and Hall; Carver; Reports of Secretary of War; "The Indian Tribes of the Upper Mississippi Valley," by Emma Helen Blair, and other works.

The Illinois or Illinois Confederation of Algonquin tribes, occupied the Rock river country in 1722. This confederation was composed of the Cahokias, Kaskaskias, Michigameas, (spelled in many ways), Peorias, and Tamaroas. Hodge has added the Moingwena tribes.

They were scattered over Northern Illinois, Southern Wisconsin and the Mississippi river, on its west bank as far as the

Des Moines river, thence into the Illinois interior at least as far as the Illinois river and thence south and southwesterly into the present limits of Jackson county. The whites first came into actual contact with them (unless Nicollet visited them) at LaPointe (Shaugawaumnikong), where in 1667 Allouez met a party which was visiting that point for purposes of trade. In 1670 the same priest met a number of them at the Mascoutin village on Upper Fox river about nine miles from the present Portage City, Wis.; but at that time this band contemplated joining the Mississippi river tribes.

It seems to be true that these tribes were rovers. When in 1673, the Marquette party passed down the Mississippi river, Marquette found the Peoria and Moingwena tribes on the west side, near the mouth of the Des Moines. Two months later he found them on the Illinois river near the present city of Peoria.

The reason perhaps for their many changes, was because they were harassed constantly by Sioux, Foxes and other northern tribes and the powerful Iroquois from the East. The murder of Pontiac by a Kaskaskia Indian provoked the Great Lakes tribes and thereafter with great rapidity, the Illini disappeared.

At about the year 1722 when the Foxes besieged detachments at Peoria, and "The Rock" (on the Illinois river) the Illini of Northern Illinois consolidated with their brethren along the Mississippi, just as the Kaskaskias in 1700 had left their large village on the Illinois, near where Utica stands now, to settle in Jackson county where they founded the village of Kaskaskia. Immediately upon leaving the Rock river country, the Winnebagoes from Wisconsin, and the Pottawatomies from the East, took possession of it and they were occupying Lee county when John Dixon took up his residence at the ferry.

John Dixon encountered no trouble with the Indians. His patriarchal appearance appealed to their eyes and his sturdy honesty and unselfish dealings with them captured their hearts. He trusted them implicitly and not a single Winnebago ever tried to cheat him. Owanico the best known to rule over the Winnebagoes of these parts, was especially fond of Father Dixon.

Just to indicate the paucity in numbers, of Northern Illinois Indians let me borrow a few figures from "Schoolcraft," who in turn took them from the War Department. In 1806, Lieut. Zebulon M. Pike estimated the total Sauks, 2,850; the total Foxes, 1,750; the total Winnebagoes, 1,950. In January, 1825, all the Indians in Indiana and Illinois were 11,579, and of these the Sauks and Foxes

in Illinois numbered 6,400. In the same year, the War Department reported 6,500 Pottawatomies in Michigan, Indiana and Illinois; "A considerable band of them . . . reside in Illinois and another band upon the Rock river. In that same year the total of all the Sauks was reported 5,000 and of all the Foxes, 1,600 and of all the Winnebagoes 5,800 in Wisconsin and Illinois. At the same time Rock river was declared to be the eastern boundary of Winnebago territory.

In 1836 the Sauks were reported to number 4,800; the Foxes 1,600; the Winnebagoes 4,500, while the Pottawatomies of Michigan and Illinois numbered but 1,500. No Winnebago villages in Lee county have been known to exist east of Rock river. Any other Indian villages which may have existed in Lee county were Pottawatomie villages, the most important of which was that of Shab-o-na, and which by the bye was located just over the line into DeKalb county—Shab-o-na, an Ottawa, the chief of that tribe, while a famous rover, seldom visited Dixon or other Rock river points. During the Black Hawk invasion he came here many times and his inestimable services during that period endeared him to every white person. He belonged properly to DeKalb county. Wherefore, aside from the Black Hawk trouble, Lee county had little to do with Indians.

Besides the village in which Mack located, another village was located in Wyoming township called in the Prairie du Chien Treaty of 1829, "The As-sim-in-eh-kon, or Paw Paw grove." This village was located on the spot conveyed by the treaty to Pierre Leclerc, known to the Lee county records as Leclere.

Along the river near Dixon, many Indian families dwelt, but so far as can be found, they lived in clumps of three or four families or fires and not as a village. These two villages are the only ones I have been able to locate in Lee county and I am reasonably confident there were no others. Both were Pottawatomie villages. Sha-bo-na's may have lapped over into Lee county, but from its location in DeKalb county, I do not see how it could.

It may be interesting to learn before leaving the Winnebagoes that their first title was the Ochangeas. The French nicknamed them Puants from the habit they had of drying fish in the fall, against their tents, from which noisome smells arose; thus, Puants, or Puans, or "Stinkers."

In 1832 the second Black Hawk campaign, brought to Lee county, all of the Indian forces and at Dixon's Ferry the white troops rendezvoused and at Dixon's Ferry Gen. Henry Atkinson,

of the United States army maintained his headquarters. After concentrating at the mouth of Rock river, the militia was sworn into the United States service by General Atkinson. This disposes of the old and much believed tradition that Lieut. Jefferson Davis swore the troops, including Capt. Abraham Lincoln, into the service at Dixon's Ferry. I have in my possession the original letter written by Brig.-Maj. Nathaniel Buckmaster, the day after the event, in which he states that Atkinson swore them in at the mouth of Rock river.

This Black Hawk was no chief; he was a brave and nothing more. Forsyth, the agent, took occasion to make this statement many times and if the reader will take the time to read the treaties with the Saes (Sauks) he will notice that Black Hawk invariably signs with the braves, never with the chiefs. Gov. John Reynolds, who had an intimate acquaintance with him takes the pains to explain that he was not a chief, simply a leader of a few Indians, devoted to the British, who accepted British pensions and annuities and who were styled the "British Band." He was a person of infinite daring and brute courage, but a man of no sort of capacity for military affairs. Led by a white man of genius and courage, Black Hawk was capable of executing small commissions, like the one under Captain Anderson at the mouth of Rock river. But in larger affairs he either lacked a sense of honor or else tired easily and was what is styled a "quitter," as for instance his escapade at the Battle of the Thames. With much pomp and ceremony he enlisted with the British; marched to British headquarters in Wisconsin; was dubbed "General Black Hawk" and was presented with a sword. With his band he marched to the scene of action. When at the Battle of the Thames, he saw Tecumseh fall and learned that the Americans could fight, notwithstanding his many predictions to the contrary, he deliberately deserted and returned to his village back in Illinois. As an orator Black Hawk possessed undoubted ability. There was but one other Sac who could equal him in eloquence and that was the matchless Keokuk and after Black Hawk had harangued the vast majority of his tribe into favoring his scheme of 1832, Keokuk it was who appeared on the scene and argued the scheme into disfavor. Keokuk was the chief of Black Hawk's tribe, not Black Hawk, and instead of nauseating the pages of history by erecting at Oregon an heroic monument to "Chief" Black Hawk, the author of the stupid project should have learned a little history and directed his genius to the memory of good old Sha-bo-na, the grandest of all Western Indians, or else to



some other Indian who had the right to overlook the Rock river country around Oregon. Black Hawk was a trespasser the moment he put his foot into the country above the prophet's village in Whiteside county. Above that point it was Winnebago and Pottawatomie country and never Sac territory. The latter was confined in Illinois to a narrow strip along the bank of the Mississippi river.

Black Hawk had signed many treaties, each one confirming a former one, until the first one of 1804, which was Black Hawk's first alleged cause for dispute with the whites, had been confirmed many times. This Indian would remain tranquil for a time, accept the bounty of the United States and of England at the same time, until his restless spirit demanded diversion, then the Treaty of 1804 and its subsequent confirmations would be denounced and later a disturbance would follow. Forsyth, the Sac agent, wrote the War Department to this fact so far back as the early '20s and therein named Black Hawk, "who is not a chief," as the disturbing agent.

In 1831 Black Hawk endeavored to cross over into Illinois from his Iowa abode for purposes of war. Governor Reynolds sent a force of militia to act in conjunction with General Gaines in expelling him. By the time the militia had reached the mouth of Rock river, Black Hawk and his band, at the show of such forces, returned to the Iowa side without attempting a blow. At the request of General Gaines another treaty confirming the one of 1804, obviating all of Black Hawk's objections and engaging to remain peaceful thereafter, was signed by Black Hawk and the whites had every reason to believe he would remain on the west side of the Mississippi.

It has been urged that the whites aggravated him, ridiculed him, converted the lands of his tribe and so on. Black Hawk lacked the capacity of Keokuk to observe the gradual decrease in numbers of the Indians and the gradual advances of civilization which demanded lands the Indians were not actually using. Black Hawk lacked capacity. His morals were not of an order to inspire a great following or father a great cause. The whites may have quarreled with him, as with themselves. But it is noticeable that Black Hawk about this time, after agreeing to remain on his new lands in Iowa, seemed to delight in returning to the Illinois side to have another quarrel and take perhaps some more aggravations, and even as has been claimed, a beating.

In 1832 his restless spirit incited his last act of warfare. He got a few followers to agree to a raid. He came very close to success in his efforts to enlist a large following; but Keokuk, ever



watchful for material advantages for his people, by a speech of matchless eloquence, took from Black Hawk almost his last recruit.

With the rag-tag, therefore, of the Rock river Saes, Black Hawk recrossed the Mississippi, under pretense to the whites of making corn with his friends, the Winnebagoes, but with the avowed purpose to his followers of annihilating the whites. His apologists insist he did not mean war because he took with him his women. The apology demonstrates his stupidity. Keokuk in his speech won back the Saes by drawing a picture of the very consequences which befell Black Hawk. Keokuk insisted that war with the great numbers of whites in the country meant annihilation. Black Hawk could not see it and did not see it until he was taken in a grand tour all over the East. All too late Black Hawk saw and believed and ever after he lived a model life and whatever of commendation he secured, he derived it after that fruitful tour. Once more Governor Reynolds sent forward a large body of militia to meet the regular troops at the mouth of Rock river. There they were sworn into the service and immediately they marched up the river to Dixon's Ferry. At that point two battalions of mounted infantry under Majors Stillman and Bailey, numbering about two hundred and seventy-five men from the Illinois river country were met, and John Dixon reported that Black Hawk and his following of something like six or eight hundred had moved up the river to a point near Old Man's creek. Stillman demanded that he be permitted to pursue and annihilate the Indians. Governor Reynolds, who desired always to make himself solid politically, against wiser counsel consented, and on the morning of May 13, 1832, the Stillman and Bailey battalions joined by Colonel Strode and others desirous of securing fame, followed. A furious rainstorm compelled a halt over-night when but a few miles out and the soldiers did not reach Old Man's creek until about dark of the 14th. They had dismounted and were preparing supper when a party of three, bearing a flag of truce from Black Hawk, appeared on a hill. Instead of respecting it, a squad of soldiers mounted hastily, shot the flag bearer, took another of the party prisoner and pellmell, half the army followed the fleeing third Indian. When he and Black Hawk's five pickets or vedettes, sent to observe the reception of the flag, came tumbling into Black Hawk's camp, Black Hawk became enraged and turning with a mere handful of followers plunged into the oncoming whites, with the fury and noise of a thunder storm. The frightened whites at once turned to flee, frightening in their flight, all those who behind them, had

been pursuers. By the time this fleeing mass of frightened humanity reached camp on Old Man's creek, fright had become so contagious that most of the men had become positively insane. A few only retained their composure. They remained and attempted to stop the stampede and stop the advance of the Indians. These were Capt. John G. Adams of Tazewell county, David Kreeps, Zadock Mendinall and Isaac Perkins of his company; James Milton; Tyrus M. Childs, Joseph B. Farris, Bird W. Ellis, John Walters, Joseph Draper, and James Doty of other companies. On the side of the hill leading from the highland to the creek, these men stood their ground and were killed, most of them outright, two badly wounded who crawled, one five miles south of the scene and one two and a half miles south, where they died and were buried.

All that night stragglers came tumbling into Dixon's Ferry. Through the lawlessness of the troops, but one day's provisions remained; the rest had been left behind after burning the prophet's village so that a forced march might be made to Dixon.

Governor Reynolds called his officers to his tent and after a consultation, it was decided to call out additional forces. The troops had begun to murmur about neglected crops back home. Reynolds sent his messengers back into the southern part of the state with his proclamation. Meantime on the 15th the army marched to the scene, buried the dead, camped over night and returned next day to Dixon's Ferry.

By this time Gen. Henry Atkinson with the regulars had reached Dixon's Ferry, and here he established his headquarters. It was ordered at once that the militia under Reynolds and Gen. Samuel Whiteside and the regulars under Lt.-Col. Zachary Taylor proceed up-stream and overtake Black Hawk. That wiley Indian, however, had disposed his forces artfully. The women and old men he sent up into the Rock river swamps of Wisconsin, while he remained near to pounce upon detachments and harass the whites wherever he might.

At a point over in DeKalb county, the troops murmured so loudly for a discharge that a discharge was ordered and marching to the mouth of the Fox river, they were mustered out.

While at Dixon, Abraham Lincoln was a captain of one of the militia companies. Lieut. Jefferson Davis was aid and adjutant to Taylor, Lieut. Robert Anderson, Lieut. Albert Sidney Johnston, Gen. Henry Dodge, Col. William S. Hamilton, and many other notable men and soldiers were numbered in that little frontier army at Dixon.

Pending the formation of the new army, two companies from Fry's new battalion were ordered to march from Ottawa to Galena to protect the frontier, then the scene of several murders. Capt. Elijah Iles was captain of one company and Abraham Lincoln was a private in it. The other company was commanded by Capt. Adam W. Snyder. They marched back to Dixon's Ferry, Iles' company first. This company from Dixon's Ferry was piloted to Galena by John Dixon. After resting a brief period it marched back without event to Dixon's Ferry, thence onto Fort Wilbourn the new point of concentration, where it was mustered out. Captain Snyder's company was designated for the more perilous duty of establishing a base of supplies between Dixon's Ferry and Galena. At Dixon's Ferry two companies of regulars under Major Bennet Riley, were detailed to escort Snyder's company. After performing his duty and encountering two engagements near Kellogg's grove, Snyder's company returned to Dixon's Ferry and was mustered out.

On June 18th, in order to make haste to cover the frontier between Dixon and Galena, still ravaged by the Indians who were murdering the whites, General Atkinson ordered Maj. John Dement forward with his battalion first to hunt for the murderers of Phillips in the Bureau woods, then to report to Colonel Taylor at Dixon's Ferry. At the latter point Dement was ordered forward to maintain the roads to Galena which Major Riley had opened.

At Kellogg's grove, Major Dement fought the first battle in which Black Hawk received a check. It was a furious fight in which the soldiers were disposed to act exactly as they did at Stillman's, and that too would have been a rout had it not been for Major Dement's personal bravery. He inspired his men and after checking Black Hawk's advance, retired to the buildings improvised as a fort. From this point Black Hawk finding himself unable longer to cope with the heavy odds, retired to join his women and old men in the fastnesses of the Rock river swamps near Lake Horicon.

By this time General Atkinson had disposed his army into three divisions to move forward from Dixon's Ferry, one under Alexander to move northwesterly to cut off a possible retreat; another under Posey to join Gen. Henry Dodge at Fort Hamilton, a middle ground, and the other under Gen. James D. Henry, up the east bank of Rock river. From this moment, Dixon's Ferry had no part in the war more than to become a reserve point for a small

force and also the objective point of Gen. Winfield Scott, who with his staff, which included Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, reached Dixon, switched his army down stream to Fort Armstrong and then with his staff moved on to Galena and then Fort Crawford. Black Hawk's capture, the treaties at Fort Armstrong followed, and Dixon's Ferry, no longer the central point of the nation's attention, subsided into the quiet routine of a little far-away frontier post. During this period, John Dixon had been an active factor as guide and commissariat for the army. He led it clear through to the affair at the Bad Axe and returned home to trade with the Indians and ferry passengers over the river. Years afterwards, Robert Anderson sent him messages recalling the exciting days of 1832 and years afterwards, Jefferson Davis, a powerful United States Senator, on the floor of the Senate appealed to the associations of those days and with John Dixon, to secure passage of a bill giving John Dixon relief in the nature of a land warrant for 160 acres of land.

The close of the Black Hawk war sealed the doom of the Indians in Illinois. Without delay they were removed to distant reservations.

The following year a Winnebago outbreak was feared, by Mr. Dixon and the few settlers of the country. Preparations were made to concentrate at Galena, but fortunately nothing came of it, and with the Indians of Northern Illinois, moved to their reservations, a short while thereafter, the Indians ceased to be factors in Lee county.

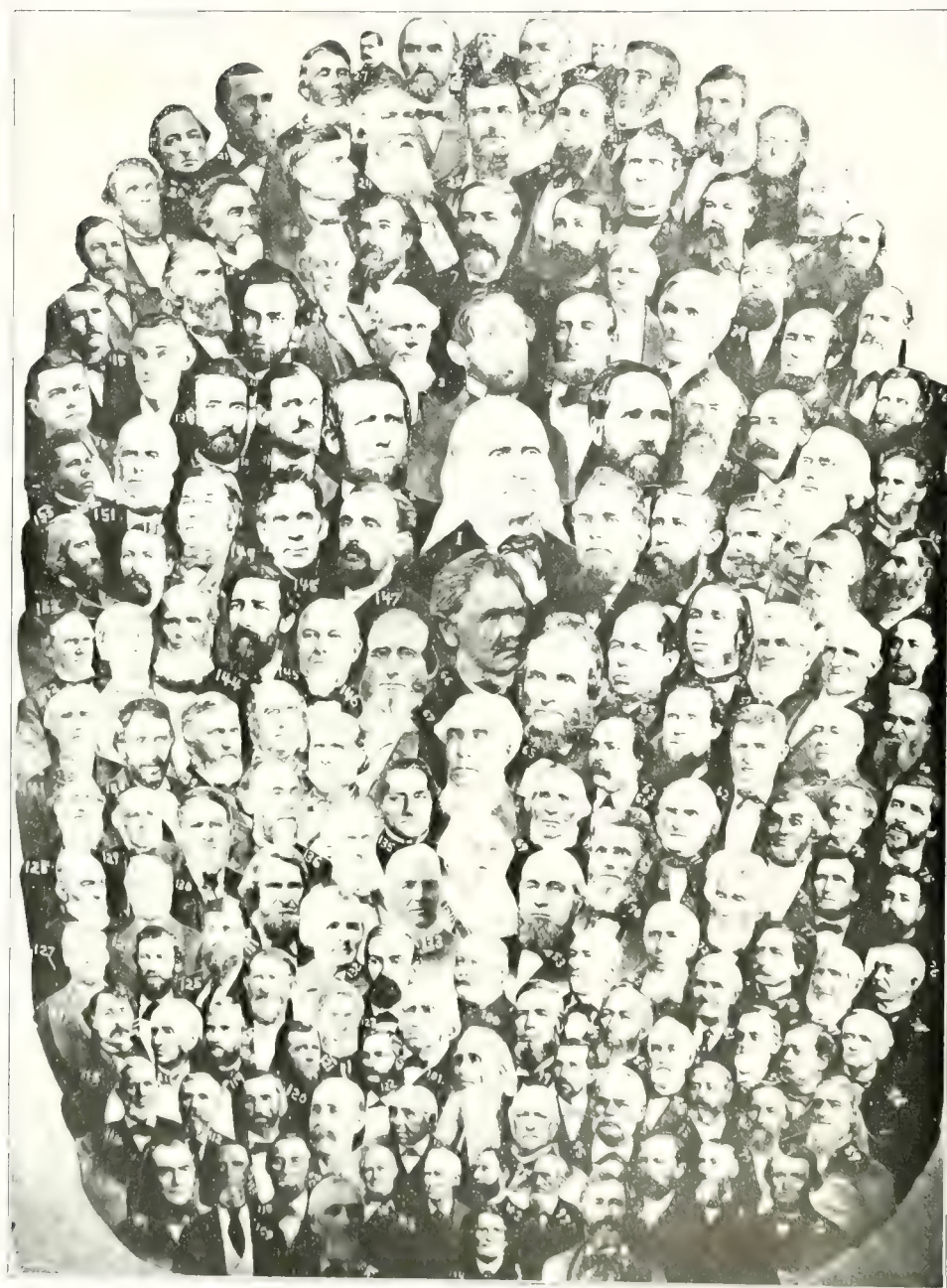
Until the year 1836, when they were finally paid off in full, many bands of Indians loitered around Dixon, Inlet and Paw Paw; but they all were very civil and when paid off, they left.

It was my intention at first to begin with the Treaty of St. Louis, in 1804 and notice each one which affected Lee county, but aside from the two Prairie du Chien Treaties of 1829, which disposed of the Lee county allotments, with the exception of the Ogee, Shabo-na and LeClere sections, they were of such minor importance as to carry no particular interest. The first of the two Prairie du Chien Treaties with the Chippewa, Ottawa and Pottawatonic tribes conveyed the lands south and east of Rock river and was concluded July 29, 1829, by John McNeil, Pierre Menard and Caleb Atwater; the other with the Winnebagoes, conveying all north and west of the river, was concluded Aug. 1, 1829, by the same commissioners. The Ogee and LeClere sections were in Wyoming township.









LEE COUNTY PIONEERS

## PIONEERS OF LEE COUNTY

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In the group of pioneers of Lee county are the following portraits: Father Dixon, Rev. Pratt, C. V. Anderson, James P. Dixon, Mr. Atkins, Henry Decker, S. Rosenthal, Charles Ayers, Dr. W. W. Wynn, Howard M. Gilbert, John R. Dixon, Fletcher Huton, Timothy Sullivan, Antoine Julian, Edward Sterling, Dwight Heaton, Major Williams, Colonel Todd, Diac Moon, Oliver Wagner, N. Underwood, Hiram Mead, Charles Lawton, Mr. Lord, William Dupuy, William Burr, Mr. Whitney, Nathaniel Whitney, James L. Camp, Mr. Bachman, Martin Detrick, R. Whitney, W. E. Weibezahn, A. Thompson, J. C. Mead, Arthur Harms, James A. Hawley, William Fritz, T. B. Moeller, Mr. Benjamin, N. Hausen, Mathias Schick, James B. Charters, Mr. Earl, Prophet Myers, Wallace Judd, B. F. Shaw, C. B. Thummell, Col. H. T. Noble, John Lord, Mont Platt, Collins Becker, Daniel W. McKenney, William W. Bethea, Austin Morse, Henry K. Strong, Col. Whitney, Gov. Charters, M. J. McVeigh, G. A. Deland, Robert Laing, Benjamin Kessler, Amos Hussey, Elias Courtright, Abner Cogswell, William Stevens, John Ellis, D. R. Bowles, Deacon Vann, J. C. Ayers, G. H. Pratt, J. C. Oliver, Col. Dysart, Mr. Mead, Judge Heaton, Felix Robinson, Mr. Durkey, Deacon Ely, John Hess, Thomas Morgan, Lawrence Wood, I. Bremer, Mr. Parks, Warren Smith, Mr. Crawford, Cy Williams, Isaac Means, J. C. Leake, Isaac Courtright, Silas Noble, Mr. Perry, William Andrus, Benjamin Brubaker, W. Wadsworth, M. Jordan, Charles Hatch, Henry Prescott, Henry J. Scott, Mr. Coakley, Lewis Floto, Reuben Trowbridge, Sheriff Hills, Samuel Goodrich, Dr. Goodman, George Foote, Harvey Herrick, Rem. Warner, Peter Breenmier, John Page, John Cheney, Mr. Adams, Captain Anderson, Abr. Brown, George L. Schuler, Dr. Everett, A. S. Dimick, John Lawrence, Merritt Smith, Isaac Bowman, Joseph Crawford, Harvey Morgan, Joseph Utley, Judge Wood, Charles Beal, Col. Dement, David Hawley, B. Brandon, W. J. Carpenter, George Williams, U. McKenney, Mr. Klasterman or Charles Bracket, Michel Plantz, Dan Decker, J. McCulloch, Dr. H. E. Paine, and Judge Eustace.



## CHAPTER II

### THE BEGINNING OF THINGS

The first known white man to frequent these parts, was Pierre LaPorte, a Frenchman from Fort Frontenac, Ontario, who hunted, trapped and traded along Rock river from the Turtle village, now practically, Beloit, Wisconsin, to its mouth.

With the exception of a few trips made to the Rocky Mountains, Pierre LaPorte covered this Rock river territory from the year 1780 to the year 1810.

He sold his furs usually, each springtime at the point now called St. Joseph, Michigan, and the point now called Chicago, in Illinois.

On a few occasions he trapped up-stream along Rock river, and at the end of such expeditions he sold his cargo of skins at Green Bay, now Wisconsin. At this point in the narrative, it may be interesting to learn that each person or member of a trading party was expected to carry over the portages and along the trails, not less than eighty-seven pounds of baggage.

This old Frenchman died at his home in Fort Frontenac, now Kingston, Ontario, about the year 1830. Of his descendants living in and about Dixon may be included Frank E. Stevens, the editor of this work, Mrs. William H. Edwards, States Attorney Harry Edwards, and the LaPortes, the Herriks and the Nisbets of Paw Paw, this county.

LaPorte was but one of the myriad Frenchmen who blazed the way for the civilization which followed so rapidly. Like most of the Frenchmen, this one found no trouble at all in dealing amicably with the Indians. They were hospitable, and honorable in their dealings and they were remarkably true to all their friendships. The Indians who occupied the Rock river country, principally Winnebagoes, were like Indians elsewhere, treated fairly and they ever were found to be firm in their attachments, civil in their conduct and honorable in their business transactions.



LaSallier, spelled also LeSaller and LeSellier, a Frenchman, probably was the next person to invade the country, and beyond any doubt, he became the first settler of Lee county.

During the Illinois trip of Major Long, in the year 1823, mentioned later on, LeSallier, according to Keating, the secretary of the party, must have settled on Rock river in the year 1793. He is said by some to have married a Pottawatomic woman, although Keating, who generally was accurate, said he married a Winnebago woman. In Carr's book mentioned hereafter, this woman was called a Pottawatomic.

Some authorities state that a daughter of this marriage was the woman who married Joseph Ogee, a half breed Frenchman. If that is true, then according to the Treaty of Prairie du Chien, she was a Pottawatomic, because that treaty which could make no mistake, called Ogee's wife, Madeline, a Pottawatomic woman.

Dr. Oliver Everett, who was considered accurate in his statements, and who was said to have investigated the question when it was close at hand, pronounced her the daughter of LaSallier. In a conversation with William D. Barge, August 13, 1886, he told Mr. Barge he knew the woman was LaSallier's daughter. Such evidence is pretty strong. Nevertheless, I cannot conceal my very grave doubts.

If LaSallier married a squaw, as he did, their offspring would be half breeds and Madeline would have been a half breed and naturally I would suppose the 1829 treaty of Prairie du Chien would have called her a half breed, because she was as much a white as she was a Pottawatomic Indian. In the neighborhood of the section of land which she was given in Wyoming township, she was styled a Pottawatomic and she retired to Kansas at last with the Pottawatomic Indians.

Just when LaSallier left the country it is impossible to state and almost impossible to conjecture. Gurdon S. Hubbard, the best authority on early Illinois settlements, made the statement that three or four trading posts on Rock river were operated in the interest of the American Fur Company from 1813-14 to 1826-33. In 1835 the ruins of LaSallier's cabin were discernible and part of the logs, in a ruined condition, were left and seen many times by the late Joseph Crawford, our first county surveyor. The exact location and size of the buildings are plainly in view today.

About the next early settler we easily can learn everything because he married here, lived in the state all his life and died an honored citizen over in the neighboring county of Winnebago.

From the "History of Rockton," by Edson I. Carr, pages six to sixteen inclusive, I find that Stephen Mack, soon after the War of 1812, came to Detroit, probably about the year 1814, with the family. Ambitious for adventure and a life of activity for himself, he joined a Government expedition around the lakes to Green Bay. Green Bay being the great fur market of the West, and fur trading the sole occupation of the people, Mack resolved upon opening a trading point of his own. To this end he was directed to the Rock river country. On a pony he started across the country, reaching in due time the point where Janesville now stands.

Following the stream downward, he paused at the Turtle village. The Indians there directed him to Bird's Grove. In seeking this spot, however, he took the wrong trail and passing it, continued until he reached a Pottawatomie village in what is now Lee county, at or near Grand Detour. Here he remained two or three years, traded for furs, carried his furs on the backs of Indian ponies to Chicago, and there he sold them, stocked up with merchandise, and then trudged back to the village.

Mack was an honest trader; he did everything possible to win the good will of the Indians, but he failed. His marriage to Ho-none-gah, the chief's daughter, failed to cement any strong friendships among the tribe because he refused to sell members firearms and liquor.

His last trip to Chicago was made with three ponies. He had conducted a successful enterprise in trade and he started on his return trip with more goods than on any previous occasion.

The Indians had determined upon his destruction and this return trip had been selected as the time to do it. But in their evil calculations they had overlooked one very important person, his wife. This faithful woman had learned of the plot and at about the time she expected her husband would reach a certain point, she struck out from camp and met him, and together they traveled to the Winnebago village in Bird's Grove. Thus terminated the residence of Stephen Mack. He passed the remainder of his life in Winnebago county with his faithful Indian wife. The story of his life is dramatically interesting, but it has no place in these pages after his departure from the borders of Lee county.

The exact location of Mack's Pottawatomie village has been the subject of some debate, but it is pretty generally conceded now to have been located in Lee county not far up-stream from the LaSallier cabin on what is now the Eugene Harrington farm on section 19 in Nachusa township, 22 N., range 10.

Some have thought LaSallier moved into it about 1817 or 1818, when Mack moved out, but no credit can be attached to that position.

Around this cabin there was a very large cemetery. Every one of the many graves long since has been examined and the contents returned. The writer found a small piece of human bone in a grave not six feet from the spot on which the cabin stood. The graves were very shallow, but some of the explorers dug very deep into the ground in the hope perhaps that articles of curiosity or value might be found. This cabin, from the appearance of the ground today, must have been a double affair, one built alongside the other, in size about eighteen feet square.

LaSallier must have been a bird of passage. After the visit of Webb, we find him acting as guide for a party traveling from Chicago to the lead mines at Galena. The route lay through DuPage, Kane, Ogle and Stephenson counties, and a full account of it may be found in "Narrative of an Expedition to the Source of St. Peter's River, etc., performed in the year 1823, under command of Stephen H. Long, U. S. T. E." The Webb account is so full and so reliable and so pertinent that a verbatim copy of it should be inserted herein. It is to be found in his book entitled "Altowan; or, Incidents of Life and Adventure in the Rocky Mountains," volume 1, pages xiii-xxvii.

"In the winter of 1821-22, I was stationed at Chicago, then about one hundred and fifty miles in advance of the pioneer settlers. All west and north of us, with the exception of the old French settlements at Green Bay and Prairie du Chien, was an untrodden wilderness, or trodden only by the lords of the forest and the adventurous trapper and voyageur. A short time previous, the fifth regiment of infantry, under the command of Colonel Snelling, had established itself on the Upper Mississippi, at the Falls of St. Anthony. Early in February, 1822, the principal chief of the Pottawatomies, one of the most friendly tribes west of Lake Michigan, reported to the agent at our post, that his tribe had received an invitation from the Sioux Indians to unite with them in cutting off the garrison at St. Peter's, at the Falls of St. Anthony; and, as evidence of his truth, produced the tobacco said to have been sent to them by the Sioux, and which generally accompanies such propositions for a war league. As no doubt was entertained of the truth of this report, the commanding officer directed me (the adjutant) to make arrangements with some of the voyageurs connected with the Indian trading house near the fort, to

carry the intelligence to Fort Armstrong, situated on Rock Island in the Mississippi, near the mouth of Rock river, thence to be forwarded to Colonel Snelling. They however, refused all my offers, alleging that none of them had ever crossed the country in the winter season—it was impracticable, etc., etc.

“The same love of adventure and excitement which had induced me to exchange a station in this city for Detroit, and then from an artillery into an infantry regiment, added to a conviction that the lives of a whole regiment of officers and men, their wives and children, were in jeopardy, and that it was possible to avert the impending blow, induced me to volunteer to be the bearer of the intelligence to Fort Armstrong.

“I accordingly took my departure, accompanied by a sergeant, who was a good woodsman, and an Indian of my own age. The first two or three days were days of weariness to me, and of frolic and fun to the Indian; because we necessarily traveled on foot, in consequence of the extreme severity of the weather, with our provisions on a pack horse to break the snow, and make a trail in which to walk. The actual suffering consisted in riding our regular tour; but I, being ‘all unused’ to travel through the snow on foot for hour after hour consecutively, was weary and worn out when we came to bivouac at night; while the Indian, was apparently, as fresh as when we started, and cracked his jokes without mercy upon fagged Che-mo-ca-mun, or ‘Long Knife,’ as they denominated all whites. I found however—as I had been told by those who were learned in such matters—that the endurance of the Indian, bears no comparison with that of the white man. He will start off on a ‘dog-trot,’ and accomplish his eighty or a hundred miles in an incredible short space of time; but when he comes to day after day of regular work and endurance, he soon begins to fag, and finally becomes worn out; while each succeeding day only inures the white man to his work, trains him for further exertion, and the better fits him for the following day’s labors. Thus it was with the Indian and myself; and on the evening of the fourth day, I came to camp fresh as when we started, while the Indian came in, weary and fatigued; and of course, it was then my turn to boast of the endurance of the Che-mo-ca-mun, and the effeminacy of the ‘Niche-nawby.’

“My instructions were, to employ the Pottawatomie as a guide to Rock river, where the country of the Winnebagoes commenced, and then take a Winnebago as a guide to Fort Armstrong—the leading object being so to arrange our line of travel as to avoid the



prairies, upon which, we would necessarily suffer from the cold. I had been apprised that I would find an old Canadian voyageur residing with his Indian family in a trading hut on Rock river, and it was to him my Pottawatomie was to guide me.

“Toward evening on the fifth day, we reached our place of destination; and old LaSaller, recognizing us as whites, and of course from the fort, intimated by signs, as he conducted us to the loft of his hut, that we were to preserve a profound silence. All who live in the Indian country learn to obey signs; and it is wonderful how soon we almost forget to ask questions. I knew that something was wrong, but it never entered my head to inquire what it was—Indian-like, quite willing to bide my time, even if the finger closely pressed upon the lips of the old man had not apprised me that I should get no answer until it suited his discretion to make a communication.

“It was nearly dark when we were consigned to the loft of the good old man; and for three long hours we saw him not. During this period there was abundant time for meditation upon our position; when all at once the profound stillness which reigned in and about the hut, was broken by the startling sound of a Winnebago war dance in our immediate vicinity! This, you may imagine, was no very agreeable sound for my sergeant or myself, but it was perfectly horrifying to my Pottawatomie; all of which tribe, as also their neighbors, were as much in awe of a Winnebago, as is a flying-fish of a dolphin. But all suspense has its end; and at length the war-dance ceased—the music of which, at times, could only be likened to shrieks of the damned, and then, again, partook of the character of the recitative in an Italian opera, until, at length, it died away, and all was silence.

“Then came old LaSaller, whose head, whitened by the snows of eighty winters, as it showed itself through the trap in the floor, was a far more acceptable sight than I could have anticipated it would be when I left the fort. Having been informed who we were, and my desire to procure a Winnebago to guide me to Fort Armstrong, he inquired whether we had not heard the war-dance, and if we could not conjecture its object! He then proceeded to state that two Winnebagoes, who had been tried and sentenced to be executed for the murder of a soldier at Fort Armstrong, had escaped from the jail at Kaskaskia, and arrived on the river a few days previous; that in consequence, the whole nation was in a state of extraordinary excitement, and that the war-dance to which we had listened, was preparatory to the starting of a war-party for

Fort Armstrong to attack it, or destroy such of the garrison as they could meet with beyond its palisades; and that of course, our only safety was in making an early start homeward. I inquired whether I could not avoid the Indians by crossing the Great Prairie, and thus striking the Mississippi above the fort. He answered that by such a route I would certainly avoid the Indians until I reached the vicinity of the Mississippi; but that we would as certainly perish with the cold, as there was no wood to furnish a fire at night. The mercury in the thermometer, as I well knew, had stood at five degrees below zero when I left the garrison, and it had certainly been growing colder each day; and therefore I apparently acquiesced in his advice, and requested to be called some three hours before daylight, which would give us a fair start of any pursuing party—and bade him good-night.

“But the old man doubted my intention to return to the fort, and shortly after, paid us another visit, accompanied by a very old Winnebago, who avowed himself the firm friend of the whites, and proceeded to point out the folly of any attempt to proceed in my expedition. He inquired its purport; and when I told him that it was to visit a dying friend, he said I had better postpone the meeting until after death, when we would doubtless meet in the paradise of the white man! But at the same time gave me to understand that he did not believe such was the object of my visit to the banks of the Mississippi. Indian-like, he sought not to pry farther into my affairs, but expressed his respect for all who knew how to keep to themselves their own counsels and the counsels of their government. His remarks were kind, and in the nature of approbation for the past and advice for the future; and coming from such a source, made a lasting impression.

“Again we were left to ourselves; and then, doubtless, I wished myself safe in garrison. But to return, and that too from fear, and the object of my journey unaccomplished, was inevitable disgrace. But what was still more important, was the consequence to others of my return. I could not but think there was an understanding between the Winnebagoes and the Sioux; and if there had lingered on my mind a doubt of the story of the Pottawatomie chief, that doubt was now at an end; and of course, a sense of duty to a whole regiment of officers and men, their wives and children, was as imperative in requiring my advance, as was the fear of disgrace in forbidding my return. With two such motives for a right decision, there could be no doubt as to my course. It required more

courage to retreat than to advance; and I determined upon the latter.

"Some hours before the dawn of day, we started, apparently for garrison; but once out of sight of old LaSaller, we knocked the shoes off our horses to avoid being traced by them in crossing the river, threw away our caps, tore up a blanket to make the hood worn by Indians in extreme cold weather, and took a course by the stars directly west. I should have mentioned, that my Indian now having become valueless, I urged his return to his own tribe. But neither persuasion nor threats, could induce him to go. In every bush he imagined he saw a Winnebago, and he dared not return alone. I then urged what was quite apparent would be the fact—that he could not sustain the forced march to which we were destined, and upon which our safety depended. But it was all in vain; and I was compelled to take him with us.

"And now, after this long introduction, I come to the point of my story. The second day after leaving Rock river was the coldest I ever experienced. The ground was covered with about eight inches of snow; and no one who has not experienced it, can well imagine with what piercing effect the wind passes over those boundless fields of snow, unbroken by a single tree. On that day, at Fort Armstrong, sixty miles south of me and sheltered by woods, I afterward ascertained that the mercury never rose above fourteen degrees above zero! How cold it was where we were, it is impossible to conjecture; but I know that when my Indian failed in strength, and absolutely refused to take his turn in riding the horse to break a trail through the snow, I rode his tour of ten minutes in addition to my own; and when I got down, discovered that my feet, face, hands, and knees, were frozen.

"To encamp without wood was an impossibility. The country is a high, rolling prairie; and from a naked hill, about five o'clock in the afternoon, I discovered an island of woods lying southwest of us some ten miles."

The continuation of the narrative makes no further reference to Lee county, so is abandoned with the statement that Lieutenant Webb reached Fort Armstrong and a detail notified Colonel Snelling of impending danger in time to avert it.

From the "Narrative of an Expedition to the Source of St. Peter's River (etc.), Compiled from the Notes of Maj. S. H. Long and Messrs. Say, Keating and Colhoun," by William H. Keating, considerable light is thrown on LaSallier, in a very few words.

On June 11, 1823 (Vol. 1, p. 175), when the expedition at Chicago had decided to select the route to Galena, rather than Fort Armstrong, no person could be found to guide it along that route until "an old French engagé, of the name LeSallier," undertook to direct it. "This man," says Keating, "who had lived for upwards of thirty years with the Indians, had taken a wife among the Winnebagoes, and settled on the headwaters of Rock river; knowing the country as far as that stream, he presumed that he could find his way thence to Fort Crawford."

This remark tallies to a nicety with Webb's and adds the important information that for upwards of thirty years he had lived with the Indians. The added information about his having settled on the headwaters of the Rock river, easily enough might have been a mistake in the writer's knowledge of geography. Had LaSallier been as early a settler as that in Wisconsin,—at the headwaters of the Rock river, his name would be found in the Wisconsin historical collections. But it is not; wherefore we are driven to the conclusion that the man had lived where Webb found him, since about the year 1793.

He could not have remained long after Webb's visit, because, when in 1830, John Dixon took up his residence at the ferry, there was no LaSallier and in 1835, when Joseph Crawford surveyed in the neighborhood, the cabin had rotted into a mass of sticks and dirt. It is difficult to imagine how in so short a space, a solid log cabin could push itself into a state of complete decay unless it had burned, and inasmuch as the stones now on the mound wear the appearance of having been subjected to fire, the cabin must have burned or else the stones were part of a fireplace. LaSallier guided the party safely until the Pektannons (Pecatonica) had been reached a few miles above its mouth. Here LaSallier informed the party that the Sauks pronounced the diminutive of a word by adding a hissing sound,—LaSallier must have been a man of some information! At this point too it became evident that he had reached the limit of his knowledge of the country. Accordingly he was sent ahead to secure an Indian to act as guide for the rest of the trip to Prairie du Chien. The elder brother of the chief of the village to which LaSallier went, a Sauk, so-called, was secured. LaSallier had explained his mission and with one accord the Indians, mostly Winnebagoes, greeted the party with manifestations of friendship. The new guide's name was Wanebea.

On page 194 LaSallier is credited with translating certain words uttered by a Winnebago, into the Sauk; then into French;

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then into English in order to test the accuracy of some of the vocabulary Major Long had written during a former trip. LaSallier did this work with surprising accuracy.

During the trip to Prairie du Chien, LaSallier also communicated much information about the Sauks, useful to any student of ethnology. (p. 223.) LaSallier, too, had a singular regard for the decencies of conversation, because when listening to and interpreting some of the things concerning squaws, which were detailed in a revolting manner, the old fellow blushed; "which, with a Canadian trader, might be supposed not to be an easy thing." Thus it will be seen by this parting allusion to LaSallier that at Grand Detour he was a Canadian trader. At Prairie du Chien in the summer of 1823, is the last view, written history gives us of this old first settler, whose parting information was to interpret Wanebea's discourse on the soul and the spirit.





THE GRAND DETOUR FERRY

## CHAPTER III

### OLD TRAILS

In the spring of the year 1825, Oliver W. Kellogg desiring to travel to the lead mines, located in Northwestern Illinois and Southwestern Wisconsin, started from Peoria in his wagon for that purpose. He crossed Rock river east of Dixon about three miles and passed through the prairie lying between Polo and Mount Morris, touching the western part of West Grove and continuing northerly and northwesterly to Galena. Prior to this time, the people of Peoria had very much desired a shorter cut to the mines than that afforded by the Mississippi if pursued along its banks by land, and few cared to take the tedious route by keel boat up that river. But prior to the breaking of a trail by Mr. Kellogg, no one cared to brave the hardships of the trip and the perils from the Indians. So soon however as Mr. Kellogg had blazed this trail many others during the summer followed it, some with teams, more on foot, and all camping out. From its maker, the trail was named Kellogg's Trail.

By reference to the map it will be noticed that Kellogg's trail was still too circuitous for the desired short cut, bearing too far east, and the travelers having obtained a taste for a short route to the mines, demanded a still shorter one to take off the curves from Kellogg's. Accordingly John Boles, traveling across the country in the spring of 1826, left the beaten track of Kellogg, some distance south of Rock river, crossed that stream where Dixon now stands, just a little above the spot where stands the present Illinois Central bridge, passed up through the country about a mile east of Polo; north to White Oak Grove, half a mile west of Forreston, thence through Crane's Grove and so on to Galena. This route being much preferable to the old Kellogg's trail, it became immediately the popularly traveled route and was named Boles' trail.



This trail was used exclusively for three years following and a few years ago traces left of it might be seen then east of Polo on the prairie, and to this very minute, worn down into the ground across Mr. Edward H. Brewster's estate of Hazelwood just outside of Dixon, the old trail is discernible.

During the season of 1826, travel over this Boles' route was about double that of the preceding summer and autumn, demonstrating the American mania for short cuts even so far back as the year 1826, when ox teams were the vogue. Travel commenced again early in the year 1827. In the month of March, 1827, Elisha Doty, later a citizen of Polo, went to Dixon from Peoria. The river was still frozen. He attempted to cross the river on the ice; but before proceeding very far, the ice began to give way and he was obliged to give up the attempt and return to the south bank. He made the statement later to the editor of Bross's history, that while waiting on the south bank of the river, just before starting on his return, about two hundred teams had collected there, all bound for Galena.

Mr. Doty lived in Polo subsequently for many years. When catechised upon the point he gave us facts never incorporated before in a history of Lee county because they were unknown to the historians, and he attached to them the accuracy which history demands. Thus early in the history of the state, Dixon became a place of prime importance.

The "Lewistown trail," opened a little later than Kellogg's trail, passed Rock river a little above Prophetstown in Whiteside county, but this was little used, the Dixon route being preferable.

T. C. Ankeny, son of John Ankeny who was one of the first settlers of Buffalo Grove (Polo), wrote a sketch of his father, John Ankeny in 1883, for the Ogle County Press, in which he says, "In 1829, by act of the legislature, he, John Ankeny, with John McDonald and another man, was appointed to view and lay out a state road from Apple River to Osier's Ferry on Rock river, now city of Dixon. December 25th of that year, he, with the other commissioners and surveying party, in pursuance of their mission, camped in a grove by a creek which for the vast quantity of buffalo bones covering acres of ground, about the head of the creek east of the grove, they gave the name of 'Buffalo' to the grove and the stream."

As the session laws for a considerable period to 1829 are silent upon the point, it is more than likely that Mr. Ankeny is mistaken and that his father received his authority from the commissioners

of Jo Daviess county, or Peoria county. As a matter of fact, those viewers were appointed by the county commissioners and through the very great kindness of Mr. J. C. Scott of Galena, I am able to reproduce their report; also some other valuable information contained in Mr. Scott's letter.

Galena, Illinois, Sept. 27, 1913.

Mr. Frank E. Stevens, Dixon, Illinois.

Dear Sir: Your letter to county clerk inquiring the names of the viewers who located a road from Rock river to Galena in 1829 was referred to me. Herewith is enclosed copy of their report as appears of record.

The County Commissioners Court of Jo Daviess County, Ill., on March 8, 1829, appointed John Brookie, Levi Warner and Alvin Humphrey Viewers to locate a road from Bowman & Co.'s Mill on Buffalo creek to Knox's mill on Elkhorn creek. Levi Warner signs as "Dept. Cty. Surv." In this survey Timothy Widifield, Zalmon Livermore and George R. Webster acted as chainmen.

January 7, 1833, the General Assembly of the State of Illinois passed an "Act providing for the location of a road from Chicago to Galena." Joseph Naper acted as Commissioner and G. W. Snow as surveyor. The survey was commenced May 30, 1833, at the northeast corner of Lake and West Water streets.

In the notes is the following:

"N. 20° 00' W. Across Rock river at Dixon's Ferry 102 miles 15 chains, 58 1-3 links."

Following the surveyors' notes the following report is made:

"Galena—

From Chicago to Dixon's Ferry the *Rout* generally a high & dry prairie and no expense of consequence will be necessary to open a road with the exception of the streams.

"There is passable fords to all of them.

"From Dixon's to Galena the general line of the present road has been followed—very hilly but a tolerable good road \$500 will probably be sufficient for a good road the whole distance."

This road is sometimes called the Galena & Chicago road and other times the Galena & Peoria road.

Trusting what is sent you will prove satisfactory I am,

Respectfully yours,

J. C. SCOTT.

REPORT: VIEWERS OF THE ROAD FROM THE WOODBINE SPRING TO O'GEE'S

To the Honorable the County Commissioners Court of Jo Daviess County, State of Illinois:

We, the undersigned subscribers being duly appointed by said Court at their November term to view and lay out a road from the Woodbine Springs to Joseph O'Gee's Ferry on Rock river beg leave to report: That we commenced at the place and proceeded to the latter, following the Lewistown road about five miles there took across south 50 degrees east for O'Gee ferry. Then finding ourselves about to strike one mile above said ferry, on our returning examined the country to Buffalo creek about ten miles where touching our line from thence to Elk creek at a lone tree about five miles, thence to Middle creek three miles, thence to Straddle creek four miles, thence to Grains Grove three miles, thence to East Plum river four miles, thence to West Plum river four miles, thence to the Lewistown road two miles, thence along said road to the beginning five miles.

We find the ground excellent and find fords on the different streams and at this time the U. S. Mail is running it, and we deem it essential to have the road confirmed and supervisors appointed to open and work the same, as wide as the balance of the road from Woodbine Springs to Galena.

And the undersigned subscribers beg leave to further suggest that three districts should be made.

1st. Commencing at the ferry on Fever river to extend to the west bank of Apple river.

2nd. Beginning on the east bank of said Apple river and extend to the west bank of Plum river.

3rd. Beginning on the east bank of Plum river to extend to Rock river and include J. O'Gees residence and such hands as may be living with him subject to labor on highways.

We would moreover state that we employed Colonel Flack as surveyor and A. Hamlin as axman under a full conviction that your Honorable Body will compensate them for their services.

CHAS. D. ST. VRAIN,  
JOHN McDONALD,  
JOHN ANKENY.

Apple River, March 1, 1830.

It will be perceived in this narrative that he speaks of Ogee's ferry as Osier's ferry. He is nearer right than is the pronuncia-

tion, Ogee's ferry. While Ogee spelled his name as given here, it was pronounced Ozya. Osier, reduced to the French mode of pronunciation would exclude the terminating consonant and give us the pronunciation—Oz-ya, with the first or long sound of O.

The name Ogee would not be called a French name exactly. The old French engagés were not particular about their orthography, and if by calling and writing a name Ogee rather than Osier, Ogee would be easier, we may rest assured Ogee would be used.

Both Father John Dixon and Miss Louise Dixon while living told the writer that Ogee pronounced his name Oz-ya or with the French inflection, Oz-yah, emphasis on the first syllable.

While discussing the point I may as well introduce at this point a letter from the late Dr. Reuben G. Thwaites which sheds a great deal of light on the subject of Ogee's origin and his name:

Sept. 15, 1913.

Mr. Frank E. Stevens, Dixon, Illinois.

Dear Sir: In response to yours of the 4th:

The records of the wandering French Canadian traders are very hard to trace; illiterate themselves, almost nothing is known or written about them. You doubtless know Mrs. Kinzie's reference in Waubun to Joseph Ogee. The name was doubtless Augé, a common French-Canadian family name. Tanguay's "Dictionnaire Genealogique" gives a Joseph Augé, who married Aug. 15, 1820, a Sioux woman. There was likewise a Joseph Augé with the Northwest Fur Company in 1799 on Red River of the North. This may possibly have been the same as our Illinois Joseph, for after the amalgamation of the Northwest Fur Company with the Hudson's Bay in 1821, many of the employes were thrown out of employment and drifted about. Many sought Prairie du Chien, and started out from thence south and southeast. Joseph Augé was probably a half-breed son of the Mackinac merchant Michel Augé who was an important character there during the British regime. One Etienne Augé was in 1744 lessee of the post of Green Bay and was murdered by a Menominee Indian.

Yours very truly,  
R. G. THWAITES, Superintendent.

In the month of May, 1833, when Dixon's ferry had reached a considerable dignity, Levi Warner and two other men, were appointed by the commissioners of Jo Daviess county "to view and



admeasure and lay out a road between Galena and Peoria," which they did, and Mr. Warner certified the distance to be 145 miles and 26 and  $\frac{25}{100}$  chains. The route ran through Dixon's ferry and on through to O. W. Kellogg's place in Buffalo Grove and on to Elkhorn creek to Isaac Chambers' hotel at Chambers' grove. He reached his old friend Chambers' house on May 31st. On June 1st he continued on his way and remained over Sunday, June 2nd, at Thomas Crain's, then known as Crain's Fort. At the home of John D. Winters, near Elizabeth, this sturdy bachelor met his future wife, a comely widow, Martha Winters, formerly Martha Bailey of Cincinnati. He completed his survey to Galena, June 6, 1833. His field notes show it was eleven miles from Peoria to station 29, an open prairie known as LaSalle. Station 37 at Meredith's house was nineteen miles from Peoria. The north line of Peoria county was twenty-one miles, which he reached May 23d, and he makes the note, "good selection for a road thus far."

Continuing north ten degrees, west sixty chains, he came to a large prairie extending to Rock river.

Thirty-two miles from Peoria he came to the south branch of Crow creek running from west to east, to bridge which would require a length of fifty links and a cost for construction, \$12.

Station 45; from Fort Clark as Peoria was called in its infancy, to Boyd's Grove was thirty-six miles in a general course north, eight degrees west. Station 53 was north fifty-nine degrees east, 1,250 chains, to Bureau creek to cross which would require a bridge 150 links long and a cost to build it of \$100. Between stations 57 and 58, he ran close to a Mr. Shirley's and a grove. For the six miles before reaching that point the ground was a level prairie. He arrived at that point on Sunday, May 26th, and it was between fifty-four and fifty-five miles from Peoria. The general course from here to Joseph Smith's house (Dad Joe's place), was mostly north seventeen degrees east. Smith's house was situated in the point of a small grove of timber on a very high elevation of ground. The road ran about one chain east of Smith's house. From Mr. Shirley's to Smith's point the ground was good for a road. Smith's was sixty-three miles from Peoria and was in Jo Daviess county, about three miles north of the then county line,—so says Mr. Smith's son. The course to Inlet timber, north, eleven degrees, east to Inlet creek, sixty-nine miles from Peoria. The cost of a bridge across this creek, he estimated to be \$150.

At this point it may be serviceable to note that while the water

course was called Inlet then, it should not be confounded with the commonly accepted Inlet creek of today.

From a high point between stations 61 and 62, as noted by Mr. Warner, there was a high bluff from which point the grove at the ferry on Rock river and the grove at Mr. Smith's were both in open view at the same time. "From which point, I should think a straight road, or nearly so, might be located on good ground." From thence to Galena, the bearings were something like or near north, ten degrees west.

From Peoria to Rock river at Dixon's ferry, it measured eighty miles and 56.50 chains. Mr. Warner reached Dixon's ferry May 29, 1833. Across Rock river from bank to bank, the distance was 9.90 chains. "Rock river is a beautiful stream; rocky bottom and healthy water," Mr. Warner wrote at the time.

Warner's course from Rock river to Kellogg's place at Buffalo grove, was north and about twenty-eight to forty degrees west. From Peoria to Kellogg's place he made the distance ninety-one miles and fifty-five chains (Kellogg's was on the south bank of Buffalo creek).

Mr. Warner estimated that the bridge needed for Buffalo creek would have to be one chain in length and the cost would be \$25; the width of the stream was twenty-five links. He reached that point Thursday, May 30, 1833.

The general direction from Kellogg's to Chambers' was north, thirty-four degrees to sixty degrees, west. From Peoria the distance was ninety-eight miles. He was at Chambers' Friday, May 31st. On Sunday, June 2d, he had reached a point opposite and about fifty links east of Thomas Crain's, 108 miles, 55 chains from Peoria. From Crain's to east fork of Plum river, the course varied from north, sixty-two degrees west to north, thirty-one degrees west. The cost to bridge the stream was set at \$50. The length of the bridge would need to be one chain; the bridge 112 or 113 miles from Peoria. The course from Plum river to middle fork of Plum river was first, north, eight degrees west, and later south by seventy-seven degrees west, then north seventy-two degrees west. The bridge at this point would cost about \$5, and it was between 117 and 118 miles from Peoria. The road reached the main stream of Plum river about 119 miles from Peoria, to bridge which, 100 links, \$50 was needed. This point was reached June 3d. The route to Flack's was generally north by forty to seventy degrees. Flack's was 126 miles and fifteen chains from the place of beginning. From there the road to Apple river ran a

northwesterly course, varying from north twenty-six degrees west to north eighty-eight degrees west. Of the river, Warner says, "course from east to west, beautiful current of water about 1.75 chains wide; good fording."

On Tuesday, June 4th, he was at Winters' place, about twenty-five links east of John D. Winters' house, and 132 miles and twenty-three chains from Peoria. From Winters' to Morrison's door in Galena, it was about thirteen miles, general direction north by eighty-seven to eighty-two degrees west.

Mr. Warner reached Galena, June 6th, making the distance 145 miles and 26.25 chains.

For the above very valuable information, I am indebted to Mr. J. W. Clinton, of Polo.

John D. Winters was a stage driver or mail carrier on this route for a considerable period. Isaac Rucker, who died but recently, also drove stage on this route from 1834 to 1837 on the Winters' line of stages, and very fortunately for us, Mr. Clinton secured from him the names of his stops, which were as follows: Dixon to Buffalo Grove, twelve miles; Buffalo Grove to Cherry Grove, eighteen miles; Cherry Grove to West Plum river, which was Kellogg's old place in Stephenson county, twelve miles; from West Plum river to Apple river, twelve miles, and from Apple river to Galena, fifteen miles.

From Dixon south to Dad Joe's Grove, the distance was twenty miles; from Dad Joe's Grove to Princeton, fifteen miles; from Princeton to Boyd's Grove, fifteen miles; from Boyd's Grove to Northhampton, twenty miles; from Northhampton to Silliman's, fifteen miles; from Silliman's to Peoria, twenty miles. These figures, 105 miles, make a total above Surveyor Warner's of something like twenty-five miles, which must be accounted for by detours made by the stage drivers from the regular and original line run by Warner.

When Indians were present, the method of crossing Rock river was simple. Winnebago Indians in numbers were found at this point then and rather thickly settled along the banks. Moreover they were very friendly with the whites, acquiescing readily in all requests to oblige them with their simple methods of ferrying over the river. Two canoes were placed side by side. Into one of these the two wheels of one side of a wagon were placed, and into the other, the two wheels of the other side of the wagon were placed. In this position, the Indians easily ferried wagons across the river. The horses were made to swim. Once across, the horses were



hitched again to the wagon and the traveler proceeded on towards Galena.

When, however, the Indians were absent, as was too frequently the case, the inconvenience was very great, as fording was impossible except at rare intervals.

Delays became so exasperating that John L. Bogardus of Peoria in the year 1827 resolved to construct a ferry boat and establish it at this point. For this purpose he sent up from Peoria a man who built a "shanty" eight by ten on the banks of the stream who remained in it a short while until Bogardus sent up a Mr. Doty, a carpenter, and father of the Elisha Doty already mentioned, who with the first arrival started to build the ferry boat. When about half completed, the Indians burned it and advised Mr. Doty and his assistant to return to Peoria. The advice was accepted without argument. Parenthetically, it may be said of Bogardus, that he had been educated for the law; but in Peoria he had been mixed up considerably with ferries. In Ballance's history of Peoria, he is put down as a "sharpener."

This trail had become so important to the whites, however, that the failure of the Bogardus venture but strengthened their determination to equip Rock river with a ferry and be no longer dependent on the whims or habits of the Indians.

More than this,—the route had become so important and travel had become so heavy that the Government had ordered a mail route to follow it, deflecting just enough to go to Gratiot's Grove over into Wisconsin.

When it came time to bid for this profitable job, Mr. John Dixon, then clerk of the county commissioners court of Peoria county and recorder, threw in a bid for it. Later it was awarded to him and he took with him to the crossing Joseph Ogee, there to establish the ferry. Being one-half Indian, Ogee was not disturbed and Mr. Dixon found favor with them for his enterprise and Ogee launched his boat in the spring of 1828; a boat propelled across the stream by poles, the passengers generally taking a pole and assisting in the work sometimes arduous enough. This ferry started from the south bank of the stream and landed on the north side wherever good or bad fortune dictated, or perhaps I should say wherever the current of that day dictated; high and low water of course had their influence on that decree.

This method of "poling" continued until the year 1830 when Mr. Dixon bought the ferry from Ogee. During this period of

practically two years Ogee occupied the hut built for Bogardus by the latter's representative.

Joseph Ogee was a Frenchman living at Peoria in the year 1828. For a long while he had acted as interpreter between the whites and the Indians. He must have been a person of average consequence, at least in the year 1825, because I find in H. W. Wells' "The Schools and Teachers of Early Peoria," in a letter written by Mrs. Maria Harkness, who taught school in Peoria in May, 1826, that Ogee was one of her patrons and sent his children to her school to be taught. The same John L. Bogardus was another patron. Judge Latham, the Indian agent, and John Dixon were others. The number of patrons was eleven and the number of pupils was thirty. The tuition charged was \$1.50 per pupil for a term of three months, and the teacher, then Miss Waters, boarded round.

The school was commenced in a log cabin owned by William Holland, the village blacksmith, where it was continued but one week because there were no windows and no light except the open door. Beginning with the second week, the school was moved to Ogee's "new hewed log cabin." This cabin must have been built about the year 1825 because James Eads, who attended the first school ever taught in Peoria (in 1821 or 1822 and by James Grant) in referring to the Ogee cabin says, "Ogee's hewed log cabin which was famous afterwards as a schoolhouse and courthouse was not built for two or three years afterwards."

Ogee's cabin stood on the bank of the Illinois river "near the Fort Clark Mill site and near the bridge." Just prior to the Black Hawk War in 1832 it was still used as a schoolhouse and in 1834 when the first courthouse was built it was still used as a courthouse.

Ballance describes it as a cabin 16x18 near the present site of the Fort Clark Mill.

Ogee figured in the first trial held in his cabin-courthouse and the first criminal case tried in the courts of Peoria county; wherefore a brief notice of it should follow while on the subject of the founder of the ferry at Dixon.

Some question has been raised about Ogee's blood. He was not a full blood Frenchman; he was a half breed,—French and Indian. Judge David McCullough, who wrote the best history of Peoria county ever published, knew intimately all about Ogee while he resided at and near Peoria. Judge McCullough calls him a half breed.

Another indisputable authority is the record of the trial of the first murder case in Peoria county, and by the way, it mentions not only Ogee, but Father John Dixon, who was clerk of the court, so that Dixon people took an active part in the trial.

Nom-a-que was a Pottawatomic Indian, living far from Peoria on the Illinois river. He wanted to reach Opa (Wesley City) opposite the Bureau river. He reached it only to find the trading point abandoned. It had been moved across the river to Peoria. Waiting for means to cross, a canoe bearing a hunter appeared. When the canoe grated on the beach, the hunter threw his paddle across the gunwales of the boat and greeted the Indian. To the delight of Nom-a-que the greeting was in the language of the Pottawatomes.

Nom-a-que told the hunter he had traveled long and hard, that he wanted to go to the settlement and that he intended to locate there for the winter. Later, as the canoe bearing the Indian and the hunter glided gracefully up the river towards the village, the hunter told Nom-a-que that his name was Joseph Ogee, that he had come to the trading post in 1818, and that his wife, who was now waiting for him, was a Pottawatomic squaw. As the canoe drew near the village beach, Ogee pointed out a large log cabin that stood near the river, which he said belonged to him and which was his home. After hauling the canoe high upon the bank, Ogee led Nom-a-que to his cabin, where the Indian was given a cordial welcome by the half breed's squaw.

As Nom-a-que refreshed himself with meat and drink and the squaw prepared for the evening meal and he felt welcome in the humble cabin with his new found friends, he little dreamed that a few weeks later he would be tried for murder in the same room and cabin. Yet this is what happened, for he was the first man tried for murder in Peoria county after the circuit was organized on Nov. 14, 1825.

He had murdered Pierre Laundri, a Frenchman, during a drunken brawl. After a trial noted for its many disgraceful exhibitions by counsel, he was convicted. Col. William S. Hamilton, son of Alexander Hamilton, defended him. He was convicted and his case was appealed to the Supreme Court and there after considerable delay, a new trial was given.

There was no jail then, and the expense was considerable in hiring guards to watch him, but the Indian made no attempts to escape. He was re-tried and sentenced to be hanged. But his guard being by that time carelessly maintained, at the suggestion

of his succeeding counsel he escaped. Subsequently at the battle of Stillman's Run, he was wounded so desperately that when found by Peorians, he was humanely killed.

The courthouse was Ogee's cabin which I have mentioned before. At night the jurors slept in the room in their blankets, on the floor. The cabin is mentioned as standing on the bank of the river, near where the T. P. & W. bridge lands on the Peoria side of the river.

The present Lee county was in Peoria county then. The trial judge was John York Sawyer, the judge who induced Father Dixon to accept the clerkship of that court, and Father Dixon acted as clerk at the trial. The whole countryside attended that trial. Ogee swore to the original complaint, Oct. 4, 1825, before Jacob Wilson, a justice of the peace, and the offense is charged as having been committed Oct. 2, and on the fourth the victim died.

Nom-a-que at one time and another was confined in jail at Springfield, at another in Edwardsville, and the expense was considerable for those days. I should explain that after his second conviction, his case was appealed and that pending a decision, he was permitted to roam at large.

The story is printed in the July number, 1912, of the *Journal of the Illinois State Historical Society*, pages 246, et seq.

Thus it will be perceived, another item in Ogee's life was furnished; he came to the old American Fur Company's trading point, established by Gurdon S. Hubbard in 1818.

The next notice we have of Lee county was in the year 1827. In that year, Red Bird, a Winnebago chief, of Wisconsin, was irritated into a declaration of war against the whites by the intrigue of the Sioux, and the massacre of a family of whites at Prairie du Chien followed. Fear for the Illinois settlements in the lead mines prompted the Illinois governor to send a battalion of troops thence to assist in quelling Red Bird's insurrection. After a tedious march to Galena, it was found that Gen. Henry Atkinson and Col. Henry Dodge had captured Red Bird and the so-called Winnebago War had been terminated.

Thus even before the establishment of Ogee's Ferry, this point had attached to itself considerable importance as a place of rendezvous in times of danger and for the first time, Dixon became a theatre of war.

Mrs. S. W. Phelps of Lee Center has given us the best description of the old Peoria trail I have found. In 1832, her family traveled from Springfield to Galena. "Then a child of eight, I was the



junior member of a party of five en route from New York City to Galena, Ill. . . . The route was via Hudson river to Albany, thence across New York state by Erie canal to Buffalo, onward by stage to Wheeling, Va., down the Ohio river and up the Mississippi by steamboat, and without detentions, required a full month's time.

" . . . Arriving at Springfield, Ill., it was found to the dismay of the older travelers that the mail stage would travel no further northward before spring. After days of search for a good team for sale, my uncle bought a stout pair of horses, an emigrant wagon, buffalo robes, and provided with a compass, a large sack of crackers and some dried beef, the best provisions for emergencies of hunger which the town afforded, we set forth, soon to leave the 'settlements' behind and to pass through a wilderness country made still more desolate by the 'Black Hawk War.'

"Stopping places become more infrequent, till for the latter days of the dreary way they were forty miles apart, the blackened ruins of cabins now and then marking the deserted 'claims.' (I do not know of a cabin on the trail burned in 1832 by the Indians; some other cause must have contributed. Editor.) Roads, more properly called 'trails' by the inhabitants, long unused and either overgrown by prairie grass or burned over by autumnal fires, were difficult to follow. Late in the afternoon of Dec. 13, our wagon halted before a little cabin known as 'Daddy Joe's.' Daddy Joe had espied us from afar, and awaited our approach leaning upon the rail fence, smoking a cob pipe, his rotund figure topped off by a well ventilated straw hat. His son, yet a lad, occupied a post of observation upon a 'top rail,' his head also sheltered from the wintry winds by a similar structure.

" 'Winnebago Inlet,' known to early settlers as a slough of despond, lay between us and Dixon's Ferry, our haven of rest for the coming night, and my uncle asked directions to a safe crossing from Daddy Joe. His advice given between long puffs of his pipe was that we should go no further that 'evening.' He kindly offered shelter, food and his son as guide in the morning, as he was sure we could not 'make the ford' before dark. His assertion that the old ford was impassable and that the trail to the new was too blind to folks after night, was assuring, but anxious to push on, my uncle urged the tired horses to a lively pace. The result proved Daddy Joe the wiser man. The winter dusk came on all too early, the 'old trail,' too easily mistaken for the new, and in the uncertain twilight, the horses plunged down the steep, slippery bank into the black abyss of the 'old ford.' The poor beasts floundered breast

deep in the icy mush, till just beyond midstream they could go no further. The wagon settled to its bed and the three feminine occupants climbed upon the trunks in the rear end, there to perch for several hours. By desperate struggles an occasional jerk brought us a few inches forward, after each one the wagon again settling into miry bed. Thus after several hours of exhausting effort the two men were able to leap to the shore from the backs of the horses, bye and bye to land the stronger horse and with his help to pull out his fellow, now hardly able to stand alone. Then one by one, we were helped along the tongue of the wagon to terra firma. My aunt, exhausted by fatigue and fright, was lifted to the back of the better horse with a buffalo robe as saddle, her husband leading the horse. Mr. Hull followed coaxing along the other, Miss Pierce and myself bringing up the rear. We started by the light of the new risen moon along the trail in 'Indian file' for a walk of three miles to 'Dixon's Ferry.'

"I recall distinctly the feelings with which I trudged on in the deep silence of midnight under the glistening stars over the boundless prairie. The weary march ended at last, twinkling lights greeted our eager eyes and as we quickened our pace the moonbeams revealed a most picturesque, though somewhat startling scene. White tents gleamed and in every direction smouldering campfires showed dusky, blanketed forms crouching or lying prone around them while a few men in army uniform bearing lanterns moved about with alert step and keen eye. We halted at once, the ladies greatly alarmed, but the watchers had noted approaching hoof beats and hurried to reassure us, explaining that several thousand Indians were there encamped, for the final settlement of annuities and other matters included in their recent treaty with the Government. A moment later we were made welcome to the warmth and comfort of her neat cabin by Mrs. Dixon, who hastened to make ready a hot, relishing supper, a royal feast to our famishing appetites.

"Our kind hostess gave up her own soft bed by the cheerful hearth fire to the ladies, tucking me snugly away at the foot to a dreamless sleep, finding a resting place somewhere among her many guests for my uncle and Mr. Hall.

"In the gray of the early dawn, Mr. Dixon and his stalwart sons started out with oxen, chains and poles to rescue the abandoned prairie schooner from the Inlet Slough, returning with it in triumphal procession a few hours later. Meanwhile, some one had taken me out into the 'great tent' among the warrior chiefs,



adorned with paint and feathers and earrings, and gorgeous in all the new toggery obtained from the agents. As we passed around the circle, a painted chief caught me up in his arms, seating me on his knee, admired and patted my red cheeks, calling me 'brave squaw, brave squaw,' because I did not turn pale and run away in fear. All preparations for a fresh start were soon completed, and we made haste to leave Lee county soil—at least so much of it as we were not compelled to carry away upon our belongings. But getting away proved no easy matter. The horses had not been consulted. Once at the river's brink our troubles began anew. The ferry was a rope ferry, the boat a flat boat 'poled' across the swift flowing river. The quivering horses, terrified at sight of the water, refused to enter the boat. After long and vain urging they finally made a wild plunge forward which sent the boat spinning from the shore as they sprang upon the boat, dragging the fore wheels of the wagon with them, the hind wheels dropping into the river, almost tossing us into the stream. Instantly, Mr. Hall was in the shallow water with his shoulder to the wheel, and somehow, between the efforts of the men and horses the whole wagon was got on board. After a halt upon the shore for advice and thanks to our friends, and a changing of the soaked garments for dry ones by the chilled men, their dripping raiment fluttering from various points of the wagon cover, our long ride to the lead mines was again resumed."

The old trail from Peoria to Galena became the most famous trail in the country. Northward a constant stream poured in the spring to make money from the lead mines. In the fall the same stream flowed backward. This movement so like that of the fish called sucker, gave the name Sucker to the people of Illinois and ever since it has clung to them.

It is known quite generally that Ogee was an intemperate man. It is known that he married a Pottawatomie woman because at the treaty of Prairie du Chien in 1829, his wife, Madeline, was given a section of ground in Wyoming township, Lee county; but for what services, I cannot tell. The treaty simply recites, "To Madeline, a Pottawatomie woman, wife of Joseph Ogee, one section west of and adjoining the tract herein granted to Pierre 'Leclere,' at the Paw-paw Grove." Ogee did a famous business. For some reason or another, possibly because he had not complied with the law governing ferries, Ogee took out a license from Jo Daviess county, Dec. 7, 1829. Possibly it was because a postoffice was about to be established at this point. In the year 1829 any way a postoffice

designated "Ogee's Ferry" was established and a Mr. Gay was made postmaster.

From the American State Papers—Post Offices, I made the discovery that the receipts for the first year of Ogee's Ferry as a postoffice, ending March 31, 1830, were \$4.64, while from Galena they were the largest in the state, \$824.54; over at Elkhorn they were 48 cents; at Peoria, \$58.82; New Salem, Lincoln's old home, \$4.16, and Chicago, nothing.

Ogee's habits became so lax that rather than see the ferry lose its prestige, Mr. Dixon took it off his hands and on April 11, 1830, he moved his family, consisting of himself, Mrs. Dixon and their five children, to this spot. On Sept. 29, 1830, he was commissioned postmaster of "Dixon's Ferry," the new name of the place. As such postmaster, he continued until the year 1837.

As soon as Father Dixon obtained the ferry, a new order was introduced; a rope ferry was substituted for the Ogee method of "poling."

Travel increased along the trail and the fact that it became known generally that John Dixon was the only man between Peoria and Galena who had money, settlers were drawn here, expecting to get work enough from him to pay living expenses while they were getting their claims cultivated.

This log house was store and tavern combined and many a famous man has tarried with Father Dixon. Up and down and down and up, Father Dixon fed and lodged them and Father Dixon loaned those old argonauts money. He traded with the Indians and out of their affectionate regard for him they named him Na-chu-sa (Head-hair-white). Some have tortured the name into Nadah-Churah-Sah. Perhaps that was the correct version and perhaps their explanation is true that the Indian habit of abbreviation made it sound Na-chu-sa; the last named is the pronunciation that has come to us by no less an authority than John Dixon himself.

With Mr. Dixon's settlement here, Ogee loitered about the ferry until about 1839. Not very long before Father Dixon bought the ferry from him, his wife, angered at his worthlessness, threatened to leave him. Quarrels became the rule rather than the exception, and one day without ceremony, Mrs. Ogee trailed off under the knowledge and the certain belief that being rich in her own right, she would not have long to wait before her hand was sought in marriage, and sure enough it was. Madeline was a wise lady for an Indian. A man named Job Alcott living near the present

village of Paw Paw married her and together, man and wife removed to the West with the tribe of Pottawatomies.

As the records of Lee county show at this time, the land was sold to David A. Town, of Paw Paw, the first settler. The sale was effected by the execution of two deeds; but as the descriptions were rather vague, a third deed was executed with something like accuracy.

From an inspection of the treaty of Prairie du Chien, one would believe that the grant to Madeline Ogee was in fee simple, but I am told by the Secretary of War that in all cases, the consent of the Government was required to alienate a piece of land and that in the case of Mrs. Alcott, the Government gave that consent to all three transfers.

More than likely some doubting reader may inquire when and where Madeline got her divorce before taking on a bigamous husband. Alas! Madeline, charming widow that she was—not—took Mr. Alcott for better or for worse without asking consent of any of the courts. A divorce proceeding was quite unknown and superfluous. Alcott proposed and she took him before he could escape.

From the execution of the last deed, all trace of the Alcotts and Ogee vanished. Ogee's disappearance was the beginning of the end; the passing of the red man from our land. In the year 1835, the year of the great migration westward, the last of the Winnebagoes were taken west to their new reservation. While they remained they traded with Mr. Dixon; they trusted him implicitly and they carried his fame for honesty so far into neighboring tribes that while other whites were molested and robbed and others were murdered, the family of Mr. Dixon never was disturbed.

During the presence of Black Hawk, in advance of the troops, he ate at Mr. Dixon's table and Mrs. Dixon waited upon him. For this notable service Mrs. Dixon had his affectionate regard.

In another place I have told of the old account books still owned by Mr. Henry S. Dixon, which Mr. Dixon kept with the Indians, but I did not include one entry which of itself should be selected as the brightest piece of humor ever written about Dixon. The entry is this: "Col. Z. Taylor, To Mdse., including shirt pattern, \$6.50."

And then follows the story of its liquidation: "Settled by note."

Col. William S. Hamilton, son of Alexander Hamilton, traveled that famous old trail and stopped many a time with Father Dixon,



and many an item may be found charged against him for merchandise and money borrowed.

Winfield Scott, a candidate for President and the general of all the armies, when he came out to relieve Atkinson, stopped with Father Dixon and he bought goods too. But the entries show that he was a cash customer.

But those acquaintances and those credits, like the one to Taylor, had their influence. When in 1840 John Dixon went to Washington to secure the removal of the United States land office from Galena to Dixon, Zachary Taylor and Winfield Scott made it their business to assist him with the result that in 1840 the land office was ordered removed to Dixon and in 1840 it was removed.

While in 1834 the importance of this trail was diminished and the Peru and Peoria shipping and trading points lost in influence to the rising young city of Chicago, Dixon became a center of larger influence by reason of the establishment in that year of the mail route by the Government from Galena through Dixon to Chicago, and with that year, the history of Lee county may be said to begin.

Stations in Lee county were established at Inlet, Melugin's Grove and Paw Paw, though for a considerable period East Paw Paw maintained a higher degree of importance, than its Lee county namesake. It seems remarkable that notwithstanding the selection of a north and south route through Lee county and its use for many years by a constant stream of travel, few stopped by the wayside to settle in Lee county. The tide of immigration which began in 1835, came almost entirely from the east along the Dixon mail and stage road which traversed the county diagonally from the southeast to the northwest and while the Peoria trail is but a memory and is an utter stranger to the maps of today, yet the old Dixon-Chicago trail today is almost identical with the old 1834 route from Dixon, clear through to Chicago. After the settlement of the Dixons here, Mr. John K. Robison was about the first to follow. Listening to the rumors of Mr. Dixon's money, he followed in 1833 and obtained employment teaching Mr. Dixon's children and some others from Buffalo Grove. He used the old Dixon mansion for his school room; thus the mansion became the first tavern, the first store and the first school in Dixon and in Lee county. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Robison moved to Melugin's Grove, married a daughter of Zachariah Melugin and lived there practically all the rest of his life.

Some few variations were attempted in the route when settlements came into importance as they did with great rapidity; but

with the exception of a change to take in Aurora when that place had reached a prominent position in the census reports, little or no change ever was made in the famous old Chicago road.

On March 2, 1839, the change was made to Aurora. The road was to begin on the west bank of Fox river at or near a house built by Harvey Bristol, occupied by Horace Town, then west to strike the Dixon's Ferry road. Such was the language of the act of the Legislature which authorized the change. Roadmaking at that time occupied the public mind quite as much as it does today while we are talking about the Lincoln Highway and other great road schemes. On the same day mentioned above, the Legislature authorized the laying out of a road from Dixon's Ferry to Linder, Union Grove and thence on to Fulton City. Dixon was a center, it will be observed! On the same day all roads established as county roads were declared to be state roads and thereafter every Legislature dealt with the subject of roads with greater frequency than any other subject.

On March 2, 1837, an act was passed by the Legislature to view and lay out a road from Princeton in "Putnam" county, to intersect the state road leading from Chicago to Dixon's Ferry in Ogle county. And this road actually was laid out and it became the thoroughfare from Princeton to Chicago. By the laying out of that road, Mr. George E. Haskell, the Inlet merchant, secured a large volume of trade at his Inlet store. Only a few days ago Mrs. Haskell told me that her husband's trade was largely from the country over in the direction of Princeton and that it was her custom always to put up the customer for the night, feed him and his team and send him back with the best of opinions of Mr. Haskell and his generosity.

The commissioners to lay out that Princeton branch of the Chicago road, were men who subsequently secured national fame. Their names were Charles Bryant, Joseph Knox, and John Kimball.

As I have mentioned before, the road designed to run from Lewiston to Galena never reached the period of infancy. It died in childbirth. But the road from Beardstown to Galena by way of Prophetstown, Savanna, Plum river on the north and Henderson, Knoxville, Rushville on the south, came near rivaling Kellogg's and Boles' trails out of existence. Father Dixon had more to do with the ultimate extinction of the Beardstown road than any other influence. He put it out of commission just as he put the Galena land office out of commission, and Dixon's Ferry

was saved. The road was so important in the eyes of the Legislature, that five commissioners were appointed to lay it out: A. M. Seymour, of Henry county; Asa Cook, of Whiteside county; Israel Mitchell, of Jo Daviess county; Russel Tancred, of Schuyler county, and G. A. Charles of Knox county. The intention of the act was to create a great state road.

One reason why many of the contemplated north and south roads were failures, was the lack of bridges of any character by which to cross the low ground which lay from Lee county clear over to the Mississippi river.

On the Peoria road through Lee county, the distance over marshy ground was made trifling by reason of the narrowness of the strip which laid between Inlet and Winnebago swamps (all then called Winnebago swamp). That at times was very bad, but efforts were made early to afford the traveler a passage over, sometimes perilous, but nevertheless certain. The older method already has been recited by the Lee Center lady.

On Feb. 19, 1839, Henry W. Cleaveland, obtained an act of the Legislature, by which he was granted the privilege of building a bridge across the Winnebago swamp, and this bridge and its necessary causeway were to be finished by a certain date in 1840. Like every other venture authorized in those days it was not finished on time and Cleaveland had his franchise extended on Feb. 26, 1841, to Dec. 1, 1841, in which to finish his bridge and causeway.

The causeway was to be raised at least three feet above the surface of adjacent ground and was to extend north or south of the bridge across Green river so as to embrace all the wet ground. It was to be made of good timber, and was to be covered with earth. Furthermore, the bridge need not be more than fifteen feet wide.

Mr. Cleaveland dallied until Feb. 3, 1843, when a supplementary act was passed amending the original act so that "it shall not be so construed as to compel the said Cleaveland, his associates, etc., to use timber or stone in the erection of the causeway across Winnebago swamp only at such place or places where it is absolutely necessary.

"Section 2. Said Cleaveland may procure one disinterested householder of Lee county to examine the bridge and causeway; the county commissioners another and the two so chosen to select a third and if they think the bridge and causeway are completed according to law and this explanation, they shall file an affidavit thereof in the office of the clerk, which shall be satisfactory evidence until contrary appears." That ended Cleaveland's legislation.



The road was made of dirt and timbers, but many times the dirt left the logs beneath and then all the tortures of travel on a corduroy road were endured.

In another part of this book, (May town,) there has been written a faithful and very interesting story about this noted old causeway and its history, good and bad. It tells of the old toll house and tavern, so lonesome that flies and mosquitoes fled when they chanced that way. The murders too are told minutely.

The old Galena, Dixon, Chicago road, which became the ultimate stage road and state road, was surveyed by Capt. Joseph Naper of Naperville in 1833. The first stage coach on this stage-mail route to leave Dixon, started eastward Jan. 1, 1834.

On Jan. 12, 1836, John Boles and James L. Kirkpatrick were, by enactment, permitted to build a toll bridge over "Fever river, at or near a place in Galena, called Meeker's furnace and at the termination of the state road."

On Feb. 10, 1835, a bill was approved which authorized the laying out of a state road from Chicago to Galena, crossing Rock river at the residence of John Phelps (Oregon). And the road, passing through Sycamore and St. Charles, was surveyed duly, and used for many years, under the provisions of an act approved March 4, 1837.

On the same Feb. 10th, the act was approved authorizing the survey of the road from "the Paw Paw Grove, on the road leading from Chicago to Dixon's Ferry, running from said grove by the groves on the headwaters of Bureau river, to the settlements at Dimick's Grove, on said stream, and from thence to Princeton, so as best to accommodate the inhabitants between those points, and from Princeton, on the shortest and best route to the county seat of Rock Island county." The reader will find this road mentioned many times in the history of Sublette, through which township it passed. But evidently, either the route was unsatisfactory or some hitch halted it until Feb. 24, 1843, when another act authorized Commissioners William Hoskins, Robert E. Thompson and Enos Smith of Bureau county to view, survey, mark, locate and establish a state road from Princeton, via Dover and LaMoille to the intersection of the state road leading from Paw Paw to Princeton.

I am convinced the road had been built already and that this act, but changed it somewhat, because in the title, the word re-view is used.

Among other measures put through various Legislatures to amend old roads and make new ones, was one passed Jan. 14, 1836,

to straighten out the road from Peoria to Dixon, and James Wilson of Tazewell county, Henry Thomas of Putnam county and Simon Reed of Peoria county, were appointed commissioners "to view, survey, mark and locate a state road, to commence at the courthouse in Peoria, running thence by the most direct route to Rock river, to strike the same at a point on the first rapids below Dixon's Ferry; thence by the most direct route to Galena."

For this work, which by the way never was done, the commissioners were to be paid \$2 per day, which, with the surveyors and chainmen's fees were to be paid by William Kirkpatrick of Rock river. In consideration therefor, said Kirkpatrick was to be permitted to build a toll bridge across the Winnebago swamp, at the place where said road crossed the swamp. The bill was passed to help Kirkpatrick and for no other purpose, and like so many others, failed.

On Feb. 27, 1837, an act was approved authorizing the survey of a road from Peoria via Wappelo and Savanna to Galena. But like most other roads designed to attack the Dixon road, nothing successful ever came of it. The Cleveland charter, under the act of Feb. 19, 1839, superseded all others, just as in the earlier years it had preceded them.

May 3, 1843, Morris Walrod of DeKalb, Reuben Pritchard of Ogle, and Bela T. Hunt of Kane county, were appointed commissioners to lay out, mark and locate a state road from Chicago via St. Charles, Sycamore, Coltonville and Browdies' Grove to Dixon. The bill also conferred the power to assess damages as well as estimate the advantages and disadvantages. This bill was designed to draw to Sycamore some of the importance which had become attached to places along the more southerly route and unite at Sycamore, the Oregon and the Dixon routes. But nothing ever came of it.

The state road, LaSalle to Inlet, where it intersected the Chicago road was authorized by act of March 3, 1843, and it was the road which crossed Sublette township and subsequently was used extensively. To locate this road Zimri Lewis and Jarvis Swift of LaSalle county and George E. Haskell of Lee county, were appointed commissioners.

Evidently, once a state road had been located, it remained a fixture until subsequent legislation changed it, because in looking over the session laws, I found many instances where old routes were vacated either by change or abandonment. The Dixon-Peoria road was no exception. On March 2, 1843, so much of the Peoria-

Galena road via Osceola and Wappello (spelling of the act followed), was vacated, "as is located across block 1, Hale's second addition to Peoria, and extending diagonally across said block from Main to Hamilton street."

The last road worthy of notice, which I find, was authorized by act of Feb. 12, 1849, and it appointed Commissioners Henry Porter of Lee, Henry Childs of Bureau and J. P. Thompson of LaSalle, to locate it from Peru to Knox's Grove, in the town of Sublette.

\* \* \*

The trails are gone. In Lee county, the banditti of the prairie gave them many chapters of desperate deeds. They lent an atmosphere and an action which made brave men tremble, but which now have the lure of memories far more pleasing. Like all the other problems which confronted the old pioneer, he met and conquered the desperado, the corduroy road, the storm and poverty. What a fight that brave old warrior made! What a brave old soul that hardy fearless pioneer was! If he were alive today, he would hark back to the scenes with the same interest we do and with perhaps a secret pleasure that he was in at the beginning and that he was in at the death, too, of the regime of terror and trouble.

Do you now cavil because I have spent so much time upon the first days of this fertile and prosperous county of ours where lands sell for fabulous sums; where men drive miles in less time than the pioneer drove inches?



## CHAPTER IV

### LEE COUNTY WHILE A PART OF OGLE

After the adoption of the constitution in 1818, and the rapid settlement in the newer parts of the state, communities desired closer communication with county seats and so, early, those settlements broke away from the parent county and set up for themselves.

When on Jan. 31, 1821, Pike county was formed, Lee county became a part of Pike county. When on Jan. 13, 1825, Peoria broke away from Fulton, Lee became a part of Peoria county.

In the year 1826, voters in the northwestern part of the state became numerous enough to have appointed for them a voting precinct on Fever river, near Galena, called the Fever river precinct and on August 7, the first election was held, of which Nehemiah Bates, Jesse W. Shull, and Andrew Clamo, sworn in before John L. Bogardus, J. P., acted as judges.

In that same year, 204 persons were listed as tax payers and a deputy from Peoria was sent up to collect the taxes. But the citizens of that district defied the deputy and he returned home without any taxes. Such a state of anarchy could not endure for long and so Jo Daviess county was organized Feb. 2, 1827, and Lee came into that jurisdiction. The process was slow, but nevertheless, certain.

Then in the year 1836, Ogle was organized and our stay in Ogle provided us with some of our most interesting history. But before entering Ogle I should state that the first election precinct which embraced Dixon and in which its people might vote, was established June 8, 1831, by the county commissioners of Jo Daviess county, and was defined as follows:

"It is considered that the persons residing within the following limits shall constitute voters within Buffalo Grove precinct, viz.:



East of the Lewiston road and south of a line to include the dwellings of Crane and Hylliard, running to the southern boundary of the county inclusive.

“It is considered that John Dixon, Isaac Chambers and John Ankeny, be and they are appointed judges of elections for the Buffalo Grove precinct.”

This Lewiston trail crossed Rock river at Prophetstown and passed up through Carroll county, not far from Lanark.

But even for those days, Galena was a long distance away for county seat purposes and impatient for more convenience, a new county was prayed for in the confident expectation that by its erection a settlement, instead of a raw piece of prairie remote from settlement, would be selected, and an act was passed by the Legislature, and approved Jan. 16, 1836, erecting the county of Ogle. Its area comprehended the present counties of Lee and Ogle.

Two of the three commissioners, appointed by the act, met as ordered, June 20, 1836, at the house of Oliver W. Kellogg, in Buffalo Grove, from which they traveled over eastward and located the county seat in the midst of a wild unsettled country and on a claim “claimed” by John Phelps and a stake was driven in the land to indicate that it had been selected for county seat purposes.

It was the rule at the time that when commissioners had selected raw land for county seat purposes, the United States would donate the same for the purpose and issue a patent.

In this instance, the location was done so carelessly that a mistake was made in the description of the quarter section and later, the mistake created a fruitful subject for litigation. But, the spot was the one upon which Oregon, once called Florence, stands today. Then the house of John Phelps was about the only one near the place.

The action of the commissioners made every settlement in the county angry and at the first election Oregon had to fight them all.

The act provided for an election of county officers on the first Monday of April, 1836, but because the commissioners had not met to locate the county seat and because of indifference, the election was not held until Dec. 24, 1836, the date set by Thomas Ford the judge of the Sixth judicial circuit, so that meantime the territory remained under the jurisdiction of Jo Daviess county.

By the same act creating Ogle, Whiteside county was erected, but for reasons, similar, perhaps to those existing in Ogle, Whiteside was not organized completely until 1839, when Lee and Whiteside both were cut off from Ogle.

Some historians have made the mistake of stating that Ogle county as created by the act of the Legislature, embraced Whiteside county. Such was not the case. Whiteside was attached to Ogle during its formative process for judicial purposes only.

By the time this election day called by Judge Ford had rolled around, the fiercest rivalry between Dixon and the so-called village of Oregon, had sprung up, and so the two places prepared to grapple for supremacy.

Inasmuch as the county commissioners would control the place of holding the courts and could control the county officers as well, until suitable buildings were provided, and they were made the judges of what constituted suitable county buildings, Dixon and its friends prepared to secure the election of commissioners favorable to Dixon, and it presented the names of Virgil A. Bogue, of Buffalo Grove; S. St. John Mix, of Byron and Cyrus Chamberlain, of Lee county (now), but a resident of Grand Detour precinct. Oregon presented the names of Isaac Rosencrans, Ezra Bond and W. J. Mix of Oregon.

Following was the vote:

#### DIXON CANDIDATES

V. A. Bogue .....	98 votes
S. St. John Mix .....	98 votes
Cyrus Chamberlain .....	95 votes

#### OREGON CANDIDATES

Isaac Rosencrans .....	89 votes
Ezra Bond .....	90 votes
W. J. Mix .....	87 votes

Votes on county officers were as follows:

Recorder, James V. Gale, 138; B. J. Phelps, 48. Surveyor, Joseph Crawford, 119; William Sanderson, 63. Sheriff, W. W. Mudd, 95; Jeremiah Murphy, 93. Coroner, L. H. Evarts, 94; Ira Hill, 96.

The poll book showing the 188 voters, voting at that exciting election, has been destroyed partially. The only names left on it are: J. P. Dixon, W. A. House, L. Crandle, E. W. Hine, J. L. Spaulding, A. Shepherd, J. F. Sanford, D. Javinole, M. T. Kimball, L. S. Huff, A. Rue, J. Rue, C. N. Turner, J. Young, A. Dickerman,

H. Hill, B. B. Brown, J. Snyder, S. S. Spaulding, R. Murray, P. Cameron, W. Southall, William Sanderson, S. Sharer, S. Gilbraith, G. Chandler, James V. Gale, G. Rosencrans, W. W. Mudd, D. Brown, J. W. Jenkins, John Boardman, S. C. Fuller, Robert Page, David Reed, H. Rosencrans, S. Smith, G. Angel, Jas. Williams, L. W. Moss, S. Johnson, — Driscoll. Mr. Gale, of Oregon, recorder-elect, made the following entry in his diary, which indicates mildly the feeling aroused at that election:

“There was great excitement at this election. All the towns were against Oregon. A large quantity of whiskey was drunk, and several fights occurred. Dixon, Grand Detour, Buffalo Grove and Bloomingville (now Byron), all combined against Oregon. A great deal of hard feeling grew out of this election that lasted until Lee county was set off and erected into an independent county. One man became so boisterous and pugilistic towards his brother that he was tied with a rope. It was the noisiest, roughest, most exciting election ever held in the county.”

The judges of that election were James V. Gale, G. W. Rosencrans and Jonathan W. Jenkins. The clerks were Smith Gilbraith and George Chandler.

Smith Gilbraith was appointed clerk of the county commissioners' court. James P. Dixon and Oliver W. Kellogg, father of Mrs. E. B. Baker, signed his bond. Thus Dixon controlled the situation and thus it will be seen how, with a technical county seat at Oregon, all the courts were held in Dixon at the schoolhouse. Until Lee was set off, the county commissioners' court, which must not be confused with the circuit court, was a peripatetic affair.

The first session convened Jan. 3, 1837, at the house of James Phelps in Oregon City. Present, Virgil A. Bogue and S. St. John Mix. The first order made was the appointment of Smith Gilbraith, clerk.

On March 6, 1837, the commissioners met at the house of Mr. F. Cushman, Buffalo Grove. At this session Cyrus Chamberlain appeared, and Oliver W. Kellogg was appointed county treasurer and entered into bonds in the sum of \$3,000 with James P. Dixon and E. W. Covell, both of Dixon, as sureties. At this session, too, license was granted E. W. Covell, to sell goods, wares, merchandise, etc., for one year, in consideration of the payment of \$10 to the county treasurer. This \$10 was the first money paid into the treasury.

It may be interesting to know, at this point that the first license to keep tavern in the new county was issued to Joseph Sawyer,

and the second one was issued to Adolphus Bliss of Inlet notoriety, for which each paid \$10.

One of the first as well as one of the most important duties of the commissioners at that session was to lay off election precincts, two of which fell to territory now embraced in Lee county. The Dixon precinct was bounded as follows: "Commencing on the west line of the county on township line between sections 22 and 23; running east eight miles; then south to Rock river; down Rock river to the south line of section 17; then east two miles, then south three miles on line between sections 34 and 35; then east to town line; then south to the north line of town 20; then west to county line; then north to place of beginning."

William P. Burrows, James P. Dixon and William Martin, were appointed judges of elections, and the house of E. W. Covell, was named as the voting place.

Inlet was named also as a precinct: Bounded on the north by Dixon, Grand Detour and Oregon City precincts; on the east, by the county line, and on the south and west by the lines of said county. Zachariah Melugin, Thomas Dexter and Charles West were appointed judges and the house of Corydon Dewey was made the polling place.

March 7th, Adolphus Bliss and others presented a petition asking for viewers to view for road purposes, a route past the "Traveler's Home," the log tavern of Bliss. Five dollars was deposited to pay the viewers' expenses and John Dixon, Corydon Dewey and Zachariah Melugin were appointed viewers and their report was unfavorable to the proposed road. It may be well to add at this point that the deposit of money in those days went to pay the viewers' fees; if the road was built, it was returned; if not the money was not returned.

At this same meeting, rates for tavern keepers were established and so were rates for the Dixon ferry.

#### TAVERN RATES

For each meal of victuals .....	37½ cents
For keeping each horse one "knight," to hay and grain .....	50 cents
For each lodging .....	25 cents
For each drink of spirituous liquor .....	12½ cents



## ROCK RIVER FERRY RATES

For each yoke of oxen and wagon.....	\$ .75
For each additional yoke of oxen.....	.25
For two horses and wagon.....	.75
For each additional horse.....	.12½
For each two horse pleasure carriage.....	1.00
For each man and horse .....	.25
For each footman .....	.12½
For one horse and wagon .....	.37½
For each horse and gig.....	.50
For each horse or ass.....	.12½
For each head of cattle.....	.06¼
For each head of sheep or hogs.....	.06¼

At this same very important meeting the commissioners "Ordered, That, on the second Monday in June next, such portion of the section of land on which the county stake is stuck, be sold at public auction for the benefit of Ogle county; the portion to be sold to be hereafter designated by the county commissioners." Another important order was made, to-wit: for the election of justices and constables on April 12th, following.

In Dixon, Benjamin H. Steward (30 votes) and John Morse (29 votes) were elected constables.

In the Inlet precinct, Daniel M. Dewey was elected justice of the peace (17 votes), and Charles West was elected constable (17 votes), and from a history of Ogle county which speaks plainly, we are told: "Justice Dewey, Constable West, Adolphus Bliss (of the old Travelers' Home), his wife, Hannah, and a few others of their gang, because of their 'close' connection and secret and suspicious ways of transacting public and private business, came to be known to the pioneers as 'Dewey, West & Co.' "

On March 8, 1837, the commissioners adjourned to meet at Grand de Tour (so spelled), June 6, 1837.

At an election held in Dixon, June 10, 1837, two justices and two constables were elected: Samuel C. McClure received 31 votes for justice, Horace Thompson 19 votes, and E. W. Covell 1 vote. For constable, Daniel B. McKenney received 35 votes, Samuel Leonard 10 votes, and S. Britton 1 vote.

The next, an extra session, was held at Dixon, July 29, 1837, and at it, the petition was approved, asking that no license be granted for the sale of liquor in Dixon.



“Ordered, That the clerk shall not grant to any person or persons, license to keep grocery in the town of Dixon.” Our first dry period in Dixon! Though by reference to the list of indictments returned at the first term of the Lee circuit court, for selling without license, it will be guessed that liquor was to be had.

The county officers made but little in those days: Smith Gilbraith's fees amounted to \$8.87; his records, stationery, etc., \$8.50, and this account was the first one presented against the county of Ogle. The next session was held at Buffalo Grove, Sept. 4, 1837. Meantime, in August, under the law, Smith Gilbraith had been elected county clerk; his bond for \$1,000 with Cyrus Chamberlain as surety, was approved. At this session, this very important order was made by the commissioners: “Ordered, That the clerk inform all the county officers and the judge of the circuit court, that Dixon has been selected as the place of holding courts until August, 1838.”

The next, December, session was held in Dixon.

At the March, 1838, session, the Dixon ferry was assessed a tax of \$30, which was larger by 100 per cent than any other of the seven ferries in the county; the ferry charges too were revised at this session moderately, by adding to the lists of vehicles, sleighs. Some more minor changes were made too. So one may see how migratory the place of holding the county commissioners' court had been. The present board was determined to remain away from Oregon. During all this time, the commissioners had met but once at the house of John Phelps and that was the first time.

To criticise and question the motives of the first commissioners, did no good and so the friends of other settlements determined to seek relief by carving a new county out of Ogle. This information was not known generally and so in August, 1838, when under the new law three new commissioners were to be elected, Dixon made no opposition to the efforts of Oregon to elect them. Messrs. Martin Reynolds, Jacob Parry and Masten Williams, all partisans of Oregon, were elected. They met in Dixon, in special session, August 30th, and ordered that the October term, 1838, of the circuit court, be held at Dixon; after that, at the house of John Phelps, Oregon City, and that the county court be held thereafter at the house of John Phelps.

But when news reached Oregon City that Dixon had been permitted even that small concession, its withdrawal was demanded the very minute the commissioners met at Oregon. Accordingly we find that in September, the order was revoked so far as Dixon was concerned, and the October term, 1838, was ordered to be held

in Oregon, although as a matter of fact, it was not. A climax had been reached. Peaceful men had tired of waging warfare and of fighting out the controversies. The feud had extended to include members of the family, the women and the children. The story is told to the effect that one day John Phelps had to come to Dixon on business. Father Dixon kept the only tavern in the place. Phelps was hungry. Father Dixon was absent, but just the same, Phelps did not want to enter; but he had to. During the meal, Mrs. Dixon is reported as remarking to Phelps: "It is a good thing for you, Mr. Phelps, that Mr. Dixon is not home today, for if he was, you would get hurt. There would be a fuss."

To which Phelps is reported as replying, "It is a good thing for Mr. Dixon, madam, that he is not at home, for if he was, he surely would be hurt. I was born in a fuss, and nothing pleases me better than to be engaged in a fuss." There may be considerable improbability about this story, but as a matter of fact the climax which brought matters to a focus, was enacted in Galena when Phelps while in Galena, discovered the plans of Mr. Dixon, by reading a notice posted to the effect that at the next session of the Legislature, a bill would be introduced for the formation of a new county which would include Oregon on its northernmost line. Immediately, Phelps posted other notices to the effect that at the next meeting of the Legislature he would apply for a division of the county whose south line would include Dixon on its extreme southern limit.

At once, Mr. Dixon sought Phelps and the agreement was made that an equitable division should be made which would give to Oregon the county seat of Ogle and to Dixon the county seat of the new county.

## CHAPTER V

### ORGANIZATION OF LEE COUNTY

The first and only term of court for Ogle county held while joined with Lee, was held in Dixon as we have seen, in September, 1837. Judge Dan Stone presided. He appointed Thomas Ford to act as state's attorney, and the first term of court was held in the blacksmith shop of James Wilson, which by that time had its floor laid. Notwithstanding the amicable arrangement made by John Dixon and Mr. Phelps of Oregon City, certain disgruntled localities, notably Buffalo Grove, excepted to it in the fear that in the expansion of Dixon, certain to follow on the heels of its selection as county seat, Buffalo Grove as a village must decline inevitably. Some of Grand Detour feared the same results, and so we find the first locality opposing the arrangement strenuously.

To push this bill through the Legislature, Frederick R. Dutcher was selected by the people of Dixon. To oppose it, Virgil A. Bogue of Buffalo Grove was selected. Both went to Vandalia prepared to fight. The remonstrance which Judge Bogue expected to use against the bill was left behind to be signed more liberally; when the desired number of signatures had been obtained, it was then to be mailed to him at Vandalia. Everything being thoroughly understood, the judge rested secure in the belief that he would defeat the bill.

The change from Buffalo Grove to Vandalia diet disagreed with the judge, and for a couple of days he remained indoors to nurse his indisposition.

Meantime Mr. Dutcher called at the postoffice to secure for his friend, the judge, the latter's mail. At the first visit the remonstrance came and Mr. Dutcher put it away where it never bothered the Legislature afterwards.

The judge recovered, but his remonstrance did not reach him. Nothing but his eloquence remained and that he proposed to use in the lobby with unexampled persuasiveness.

But here again, Mr. Dutcher circumvented the effects of the judge's eloquence in a most effectual manner. The vast majority of the legislators hated abolitionists. The judge was an uncompromising abolitionist and like Owen Lovejoy, he was not afraid to say so. Dutcher knew this and so he got Bogue to make a public abolition speech, which many members of the Legislature listened to, his friend Dutcher among the number. It was so much of a masterpiece that when the bill came up it passed almost unanimously, and was approved Feb. 27, 1839. Now, pray do not claim for the present generation a monopoly of wit in political schemes!

Frederick R. Dutcher named this county Lee, in honor of Light Horse Harry Lee of Revolutionary fame and a national hero of Mr. Dutcher's. Thus after many stormy scenes Lee county, as a separate and a legal status, was prepared to act. D. G. Salisbury, E. H. Nichols and L. G. Butler from various parts of the state were appointed by the act to act as commissioners to locate a county seat. On May 31, 1839, they selected Dixon. Following is their report:

"The undersigned, commissioners appointed by the act creating the county of Lee, approved Feb. 27, 1839, having been duly sworn and after due examination, having due regard to the settlements and the convenience of the present and future population of said county of Lee, do hereby locate the seat of justice for the aforesaid county of Lee at the town of Dixon, and have stuck the stake for the place, or point, at which the public buildings shall be erected, on the quarter section composed of the west half of the northwest quarter of section 4, township 21, range 9, east of the fourth principal meridian, and the east half of the northeast quarter of section 5, same township and range aforesaid.

"And we further report, that, the proprietors and owners of lots in the aforesaid town of Dixon have executed certain bonds guaranteeing the payment of the sum of \$6,460, which is exclusive of \$1,050, signed by Messrs. Gilbraith, Wilkinson and Dement, which is embraced and included in a bond of \$3,000 and included above. Also one bond for a deed of eighty acres of land adjoining the said town of Dixon.

"All of which is respectfully submitted to the county commissioners' court of Lee county.

"D. G. SALISBURY, [SEAL]

"ETHAN H. NICHOLS, [SEAL]

"L. G. BUTLER, [SEAL]

"Commissioners."



It was to be expected that Dixon would be selected. Nevertheless, a feeling of relief was felt and expressed at the release of the people from future political quarrels over county seat affairs. The act creating the county fixed the time for an election of county commissioners on the first Monday of August, 1839, at which Charles F. Ingals of Inlet, Nathan R. Whitney of Franklin Grove and James P. Dixon of Dixon were elected our first county commissioners. In the absence of a courthouse, the first schoolhouse was selected in which to hold the first session of what then was denominated the county commissioners' court.

Odd dates figured conspicuously in the early affairs of Lee county. On Friday, the 13th of September, Lee county began business, and who shall say she ever has met an unlucky or unpromising minute! And who shall say she has failed to keep pace in the race with her 101 sister counties!

Isaac Boardman was elected clerk of the county commissioners' court; Aaron Wakeley, sheriff; Joseph Crawford, surveyor; Harvey Morgan, probate justice or judge, and G. W. Chase, recorder. Instead of the present township and board of supervisors style adopted in 1850, the older method of county administration by three county commissioners, acting as a court, prevailed.

At this first term of the county commissioner's court, the terms of office of the commissioners were settled as follows: Mr. Ingals, three years; Mr. Dixon, two years, and Mr. Whitney, one year. Mr. Dixon was not present during the first session. He qualified Sept. 30, 1839.

The commissioner's per diem was \$2.50.

The first business of the commissioners was to lay off Lee county into election precincts:

No. One was known as Gap Grove precinct and it comprised the territory known today as the township of Palmyra.

No. Two was called Dixon.

Precinct No. Three was called Franklin.

Precinct No. Four was called Melugin.

Precinct No. Five was called Inlet.

Precinct No. Six was called Winnebago and it took in the territory now comprising Marion, East Grove, Hamilton and Harmon.

The house of William Martin was selected for the polling place in Gap Grove precinct and William Martin, Thomas J. Harris and William Johnson were appointed judges of election. For precinct two, the polling place was fixed at the schoolhouse in



Dixon and the judges of election appointed were James Santee, Samuel M. Bowman and Thomas McCabe. For precinct three, the house of Jeremiah Whipple was selected for a polling place and for judges, Cyrus Chamberlain, Jeremiah Whipple and Don Cooper were selected. For precinct four, the Melugin school-house was selected for a polling place and for judges of election, David A. Town, Zachariah Melugin and John K. Robison were appointed. For precinct five, Inlet, the house of Benjamin Whitaker was made the polling place for elections, and Daniel M. Dewey, David Frost and Asa B. Searles were appointed judges. For the sixth precinct, the house of David Welty was selected as the polling place and for judges, David Welty, Henry W. Bogardus and Nathan B. Meek were appointed.

Then as now the subject of better roads was one of paramount importance and we find the records of the county commissioners' court which had jurisdiction of the subject, flooded with petitions to review and relocate roads and parts of roads and to view and locate new roads. The first road to come up for consideration before the court was one leading from Dixon's Ferry to Bush's Ferry, down stream a couple of miles. One should believe that with the orders the commissioners gave, it should not have required any order, because invariably, every order to comply with the petition was accompanied with a reservation to the effect that the county was to be put to no expense save the surveyor's fees, and in those cases the record generally showed that somebody deposited them in the county treasury, five dollars, to pay the surveyor, conditioned that the same should be repaid if not used.

The next petition to review and relocate a road was brought in on the same day and asked to relocate the road from Dixon's Ferry to the house of Cyrus Chamberlain. In this case William P. Burrows deposited the \$5. But next came a pretty big job for so young a county. It was desired to re-view and relocate the road running from the ferry to Cleveland's turnpike, and from thence via the west end of East Grove to the south end of Lee county. To do this job, S. M. Bowman, David Welty and Henry W. Bogardus were appointed commissioners. Later it was ordered that an election be held in each of the six precincts to elect, on November 14th, two justices of the peace and two constables in each precinct. Running on down I found one very important item in the history of Lee county. Should the date grub desire to know the date of the first circus held in Lee county, it was Sept. 17,

1839, and for the privilege of holding it the circus of Howe and Sons paid into the Lee county treasury the sum of \$10.

Few of you know what a keel boat was. It was the popular river boat for many long and weary years and was not superseded until the steamboat appeared. In point of form it resembled very much the canal boat. All around the top of the bulwarks a platform was built, along which the crew walked forward and backwards with their long poles with which the boat was propelled. The poles did a good job while going down stream or while floating upon the surface of quiet waters, but while trying to make headway against the wind or the current, the task was nothing short of fearful. The crew were forced to go ashore with a long rope, tie the rope to a tree on the bank and then by bull strength one relay would pull the ropes and another would catch and hold the gain by having the rope wound round the tree tightly enough to prevent any "give." This was called cordelling. If no trees appeared along the banks, then the crew were compelled to make for the shore and wade in the shallow water and pull the boat along by means of ropes. A sail was used in most instances, but the boats were so clumsy that sails afforded very little assistance. Keel boat crews were noted for their brutality—not to passengers—and for their boat songs, sung too while in the act of their most slavish duties. But to apply the case to Lee county: On the payment of \$5, Andrews and McMasters were granted by the board of commissioners, the privilege of selling merchandise on board their keel boat in said Lee county until the end of the next term of the county commissioners' court, "about Oct. 13, 1839."

On Oct. 2, 1839, the report of the commissioners locating the county seat at Dixon was ordered approved and spread on the records.

#### FIRST COURTHOUSE AND JAIL

On Dec. 2, 1839, plans for a courthouse and jail were taken up and considered; Commissioner Dixon was absent that day.

Messrs. Carpenter and Davy were employed to draft further plans for the courthouse.

On Dec. 26, the clerk was ordered to make out specifications for building a courthouse and jail. On the next day the clerk submitted them; the courthouse must be of stone or brick and the jail of stone and timber. They were accepted and filed, and the clerk was ordered to advertise for sealed proposals, to be opened Jan.

6, 1840. On that date the clerk was ordered to procure plans for jail, to correspond with specifications, and the time to contractors was extended one day when Cyrus R. Miner was paid \$3 for drawing draft of courthouse roof. This was the great day of days for Dixon. The bids were opened; but they must have been insufficient because the board at once ordered that S. M. Bowman and Smith Gilbraith and John Van Arman be communicated with regarding their price for doing certain work not included in the specifications.

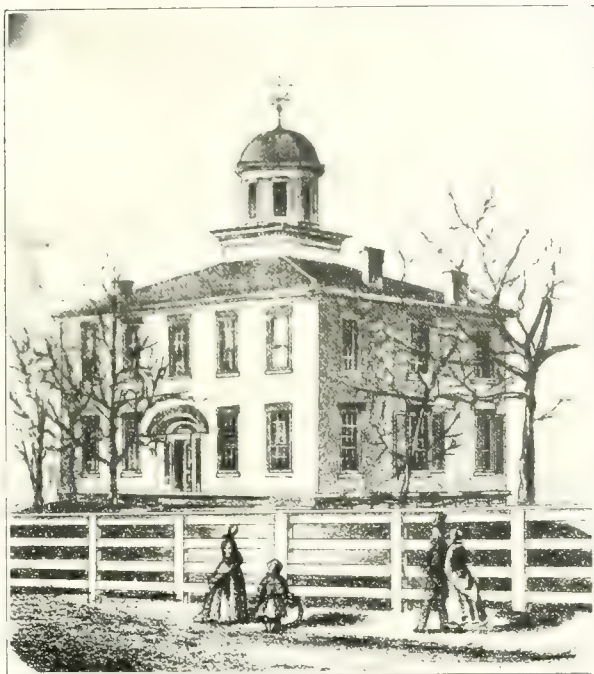
Bids could not have been numerous. Zenas Aplington, of Buffalo Grove, and G. G. Holbrook secured the contract for building the jail, for the sum of \$1,495, and for the faithful observance of the contract bond was required.

Samuel M. Bowman was given the contract for building the courthouse for the stipulated price, \$6,800, and for the extras not included in the original specifications, he was to receive \$450. Bond was to be executed.

And right here in the midst of all this joy of expansion comes the first official record we have of a death in the new county. On this same day, Christopher Brookner was ordered paid the sum of \$9 for making a coffin in which to bury Daniel Bremridge, a county charge. Nine dollars! Compare that with the price of a modern equipment in which to be ferried over the Styx!

A study of the struggles of Dixon, a little frontier outpost, to secure the county seat and then to provide funds with which to build the county buildings, furnishes a story of energy and pluck to be found only in a young and unconquerable community. Money was scarce in 1839—frightfully scarce. The effects of the 1837 panic were still hovering over the country. The Internal Improvement, after ruining the state, had collapsed. The people were generous but poor, and yet in order to secure county buildings for county uses, which should be paid for by all those who were to enjoy their benefits, the little village of Dixon was required by the act of the Legislature and the action of the commissioners in selecting Dixon, to provide a block or square of ground upon which to locate the courthouse and to provide money to build that courthouse, and a county jail as well.

It will be noticed by the report of those commissioners, that the block of ground had been offered (by John Dixon). It also will be noticed by their report that eighty acres of land adjoining the town plat had been secured. John Dixon added that to his contribution. It also will be noticed that Messrs. Smith Gilbraith.



COURT HOUSE, DIXON



LEE COUNTY'S SECOND COURT HOUSE





Wilkinson and Dement, (not John nor Charles Dement) guaranteed by bond to pay \$1,050. Others guaranteed by bond, the sum of \$6,460, and it also will be noticed that another bond of \$3,000, less the one of Gilbraith, et al., of \$1,050, was required as the sine qua non for settling the county seat in Dixon.

And so the newly elected county commissioners proceeded to build the first county buildings of Lee county.

The first jurors, grand and petit, for the first term of the circuit court, were selected at this time and their names are: Grand Jurors, William Martin, Noah Bedee, Reuben Eastwood, John H. Page, Oscar F. Ayres, Elijah Bowman, John Brown, Thomas McCabe, Cyrus Chamberlain, Cyrus R. Miner, Erastus DeWolf, David H. Birdsall, George E. Haskell, Daniel M. Dewey, Daniel Baird, James Blair, Joseph F. Abbott, Peter T. Scott, Nathan B. Meek, John Wilson, Zachariah Melugin, John K. Robison and Jacob Kipling.

The first petit jurors, and they were drawn for the April term, 1840, were Oliver Hubbard, Simon Fellows, Jonas M. Johnson, Benjamin H. Steward, William F. Bradshaw, Hiram Parks, Jeremiah Murphy, Josiah Mooers, Charles Edson, Joseph Crawford, Samuel C. McClure, John Chamberlain, Edward Morgan, Amos Hussey, Daniel Frost, John "Done," Richard F. Adams, Sylvanus Peterson, Asa B. Searls, R. B. Allen, William Guthrie, John Gilmore, David Welty and James S. Bell.

From the records in the same office it may be interesting to know the movements of little Cupid in this new and expansive county of Lee! The first three marriage licenses procured in the new county, in their order, are Sept. 24, 1839, Gustavus Witzler and Louisa Dombach, who were married Oct. 10 by Smith Gilbraith, and the license was registered with the clerk Oct. 16. Thus the German was the first to get a new license in the new county and the thrifty German has been coming to this county and he has been growing into fatherhood and grandfatherhood ever since and to those same Germans the county is under lasting obligations. But Mr. Witzler was not the first bridegroom. The second man to get the license beat him: On Oct. 3, 1839, William Hopps (uncle of Clyde Smith of Dixon), who obtained license number two, was the first to wed, so the record says. He and Miss Martha Smith were married by Rev. Charles Morris, minister of the gospel, Oct. 5, and his license was registered Oct. 9. The third to procure a license was Henry W. Cleaveland, who was married

to Rowena Smith, Oct. 23, by Rev. James De Pui, an Episcopal clergyman, who established the first Episcopal church in Dixon. The license was registered Nov. 10, 1839.

#### LEE COUNTY'S CHARTER

##### Session Laws Eleventh General Assembly, Page 170

An Act to create the county of Lee from the county of Ogle.

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That all that part of Ogle county lying south of a line beginning on the western boundary of Ogle county at the northwest corner of section eighteen, in township twenty-two, north, of range eight, east of the fourth principal meridian; thence, on the section line between sections numbered seven and eighteen, in said township, east, to the main channel of Rock river; thence up the center of the main channel of Rock river, to the section line between sections twelve and thirteen, in township twenty-two, north, of range nine, east of the fourth principal meridian; thence, east with the last mentioned section line, to the northeast corner of section seventeen, in township twenty-two, north, of range ten, east of the fourth principal meridian; thence, south, to the southeast corner of the last mentioned section; and thence, east, with the section lines, to the eastern boundary of the county, shall constitute the county of Lee.

Sec. 2. That Lorin G. Butler of Cook county, E. H. Nichols, of Whiteside county, and D. G. Salsbury of the county of Bureau, be and they are hereby, appointed commissioners to locate the seat of justice for said county of Lee; and said commissioners, or a majority of them, shall meet at the town of Dixon, on the first Monday in May next, or as soon thereafter as may be, and, after being duly qualified before some justice of the peace faithfully to perform the duties required of them by this act, shall proceed to locate and establish the permanent seat of justice of said county of Lee, having due regard to the settlements and the convenience of the present and future population of said county, and when so located, shall be and remain the permanent seat of justice.

Sec. 3. If said seat of justice shall be located on lands which have been laid off into town lots, the owners or proprietors of the same shall donate and convey unto the county commissioners of said county of Lee, and their successors in office, for the use and

benefit of said county, necessary land on which to erect public buildings, which shall be erected thereon; and shall enter into bonds, with approved security, to the county commissioners, and their successors in office, for the use and benefit of said county, to pay the sum of three thousand five hundred dollars, in three equal installments, one-third in three months, one-third in nine months, and the remaining third in fifteen months, from the time of said location. And if the county seat shall be located on lands claimed by any individual, not laid off into town lots, the owner or proprietor shall donate unto the county, as aforesaid, at least twenty acres of land, on which public buildings shall be erected, or enter into bonds to the county commissioners in such sums and conditions as is required if the same shall be located on lands laid off into town lots. And all moneys accruing from the sale of any lands which may be donated to said county, or may be received on said bonds, shall be appropriated to the erection of a suitable court house and jail. And, until public buildings are erected, the several courts of the counties of Ogle and Lee shall be held at such place, in their respective county seats, as the county commissioners shall direct.

Sec. 4. The citizens of the county hereby created are entitled, in all respects, to the same rights and privileges as are allowed in general to other counties in this state.

Sec. 5. It shall be the duty of the clerk of the county commissioners' court of Ogle county to order an election to be held in the several precincts in the county of Lee; which order shall be directed to the judges of election in the several precincts in said county of Lee established by the county commissioners' court of Ogle county, to be held at the several places of holding elections in the several precincts, for the election of county officers for the county of Lee; which election shall be held on the first Monday in August next, and shall be conducted in all respects agreeably to the provisions of the law regulating elections.

Sec. 6. It shall be the duty of the judges of the election so ordered to make returns thereof to the clerk of the county commissioners' court of Ogle county, who shall, together with two justices of the peace, proceed to canvass all the votes taken in the county of Lee, and shall deliver their certificate to each officer so elected; and shall also deliver to the clerk of Lee county, so soon as he shall have been qualified, all the poll-books of said election, whose duty it shall be to forward an abstract to the

Secretary of State, in such manner and form as is required in other counties in this state. The county of Lee, hereby created, shall continue to form a part of the county of Ogle until after said election, as is above provided; and the county commissioners so elected shall be qualified.

Sec. 7. The county commissioners elected under this act shall meet at the town of Dixon, within five days after receiving certificates of election, and shall qualify by delivering the proper oath to each other; and shall require their clerk, so elected, to enter into bond and take the oath of office as is required by law. It shall then be the duty of said clerk to ascertain by lot, the term each of said commissioners shall serve, according to the provisions of an act, entitled "An act to amend an act, entitled 'An act establishing courts of county commissioners,' " passed March 22, 1819.

Sec. 8. The county of Lee hereby created shall vote with Jo Daviess county for Senators and Representatives until the next apportionment.

Sec. 9. The commissioners appointed by this act to locate the seat of justice in the county of Lee shall receive two dollars per day for each and every day necessarily spent in discharging the duties thereof, to be paid out of the county treasury.

Approved, Feb. 27, 1839.

#### LIST OF ALL PLATS OF ORIGINAL VILLAGES, LAID OUT IN LEE COUNTY

By Ira W. Lewis

Adelheid was laid out June 19, 1896, by the Anglo-Swiss Condensed Co.

Amboy, The Town of was laid out March 27, 1854, by Hiram Ketchum and George W. Gray, trustees of the owners of the land.

Binghampton, The Town of, was laid out May 16, 1848, by Asa B. Searls and Warren Badger, proprietors.

Brooklyn, The Town of, was laid out Aug. 26, 1872, by O. P. Johnson, D. L. Harris and R. N. Woods, proprietors.

Carnahan, The Town of, was laid out June 19, 1873, by A. J. Carnahan, proprietor.

Chaplin, The Town of, was laid out May 3, 1853, by Christian Lahman and Silas P. Tollman.

Compton, The Town of, was laid out May 8, 1873, by Joel Compton.



Coventry was laid out Nov. 13, 1841, by Smith Gilbraith, upon parts of sections 35 and 36, T. 22, R. 8 (Palmyra).

Dixon, The Town of, was laid out Oct. 28, 1840, by John Dixon, Smith Gilbraith, William Wilkinson and Bowman & Lane.

Eldena was laid out July 10, 1863, by the Illinois Central Railroad Co.

Franklin Grove, The Town of, was laid out May 8, 1854, by Thomas D. Robertson and Christian Lahman.

Harmon, The Town of, was laid out May 15, 1872, by D. H. Wicker, J. S. Meckling, Alonzo Kinyon and C. G. Wicker.

Lee, The Town of, was laid out Aug. 19, 1872, by Francis E. Hinckley and John Kennedy.

Lee Center, The Town of, was laid out Nov. 23, 1854, by Luke Hitchcock and Charles I. Hitchcock.

Middleboro was laid out Nov. 1, 1911, on part of sections 23 and 24 Bradford, by John W. Weishaar and Henry Weishaar.

Nachusa, The Town of, was laid out March 1, 1855, by A. P. Dysart and George Baugh.

Nelson, The Town of, was laid out Dec. 22, 1862, by Willard S. Pope and Samuel Nelson.

Ogle, The Town of (now Ashton), was laid out May 9, 1853, by E. B. Stiles and Thomas D. Robertson.

Oporto (no plat or survey recorded), two lots known as "Log House Lot" and "Frame House Lot." This "speculator's plat" was recorded in Jo Daviess county. It embraced lands between the I. C. R. R. and North Dixon on each side of the Palmyra road.

Palestine, The Town of, was laid out May 10, 1854, by Rhoda E. Hook, on S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  of S. E.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 21, T. 20, R. 10 (Amboy township).

Prairieville was laid out April 10, 1858, by Abijah Powers, in Palmyra township.

Paw Paw Grove, Village of, was laid out Aug. 1, 1871.

Scarboro, Village of, was laid out on part of S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 8, T. 38, R. 2 (Willow Creek township), by Lewis G. Durin.

Shaw, The Town of, was laid out Oct. 24, 1878, by Sherman Shaw.

Shelburn (North Shelburn and South Shelburn) was laid out April 25, 1847.

Steward, The Town of, was laid out Nov. 30, 1872, by Wesley Steward.

Sublette, The Town of, was laid out May 8, 1855, by the Illinois Central Railroad Co.



Swissville was laid out June 23, 1892, in part N.  $\frac{1}{2}$  S. W.  $\frac{1}{4}$  Sec. 32, T. 22, R. 9, by George H. Page.

Van Petten was laid out Sept. 3, 1901, on part of S.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Sec. 19, T. 20, R. 8 (Harman township), by A. G. Van Petten.

Walton, The Town of, was laid out in part of sections 14 and 15, Marion township, May 4, 1878, by Pryce Jones.

#### COUNTY OFFICERS

Following is the list of county officers (including circuit judges) from the organization of the county to date:

Coroners—Samuel Johnson, 1839-41; John Lord, 1841-48; Solomon Parker, 1848-50; James Goble, 1850-54; Daniel B. McKenney, 1854-56; H. O. Kelsey, 1856-64; James Hatch, 1864-66; Harvey Barrell, 1866-70; A. E. Wilcox, 1870-78; John C. Church, 1878-88; William B. Andruss, 1888-96, died in office; Charles T. Smith, 1899-1912; George B. Stephan, 1912, present incumbent.

Surveyors—Joseph Crawford, 1839-44; Seth H. Whitmore, 1844-46; S. Parker, in 1846; C. Camp, 1846-49; Joseph Crawford, 1849-55; A. W. Tinkham, 1855-57; Milton Santee, 1857-61; K. F. Booth, 1861-63; William B. Andruss, 1863-65; C. B. Hall, 1865-67; William McMahan, 1867-82, resigned Oct. 1, 1882; Henry E. Wylie, 1882-88; Charles C. Jacobs, 1892-96; William McMahan, 1896-1900; L. B. Neighbour, 1900-04; George C. Heritage, 1904, resigned 1906; L. B. Neighbour, 1906, to date.

Superintendents of Schools—E. R. Mason to 1840; Joseph T. Little, 1840-43; Daniel B. McKenney, 1843-46; Lorenzo Wood, 1846-50; John V. Eustace, 1850-53; John Stevens, 1853-55; Simeon Wright, 1855-57; James A. Hawley, 1857-59; John Monroe, 1859-61; W. H. Gardner, 1861-63; Benjamin F. Atherton, 1863-65; James H. Preston, 1865-73; Daniel Carey, 1873-77; James H. Preston, 1877-82; Samuel J. Howe, 1882-86; P. M. James, 1886-90; Jay C. Edwards, 1890-94; I. F. Edwards, 1894-1910; L. W. Miller, 1910-14.

Sheriffs—Aaron Wakelee, 1839-41; Aaron L. Porter, 1841-42; James Campbell, 1842-48; James Goble, 1848-51; Aaron L. Porter, 1851-53; Ozias Wheeler, 1853; William Butler, 1853-56; Ozias Wheeler, 1856-58; Lester Harding, 1858-60; Aaron L. Porter, 1860-62; Charles F. Lynn, 1862-64; R. P. Treadwell, 1864-66; Truman L. Pratt, 1866-68; George M. Berkeley, 1868-76; Jona-

than N. Hills, 1876-80; Walter Little, 1880-82; Isaac Edwards, 1882-86; W. H. Woodyatt, 1886-90; George Stainbrook, 1890-94; Josiah L. Gray, 1894-98; Michael J. McGowan, 1898-1902; Charles W. Wohnke, 1902-06; A. T. Tourtillott, 1906-10; Clarence P. Reid, 1910-14.

Treasurers—John Morse, 1840-43; Nathan Morehouse, 1843-46; S. Parker in 1846; W. W. Bethea, 1846-50; Elias B. Stiles, 1850-57; Francis B. Little, 1857-59; Elias B. Stiles, 1859-63; Joseph T. Little, 1863-71; Josiah Little, 1871-75; Frederick A. Truman, 1875-79; Josiah Little, 1879-86; Charles H. Hughes, 1886-90; Michael Maloney, 1890-94; Charles F. Welty, 1894-98; John M. Sterling, 1898-1902; Walter B. Merriman, 1902-06; John M. Sterling, 1906-10; Frank C. Vaughan, 1910-14.

Recorders—For a time the office of recorder was a separate one. In 1850 it was united with the office of clerk of the circuit court. Michael Fellows, 1839-44; Edwin W. Hine, 1844-50.

Circuit Clerks—George W. Chase, 1839-41; Charles T. Chase, 1841-51; N. F. Porter in 1851; Isaac S. Boardman, 1851-57; George E. Haskell, 1857-59, resigned; Isaac S. Boardman, 1859-60; Benjamin F. Shaw, 1860-68; Jonathan N. Hyde, 1868-76; Remington Warriner, 1876 to July, 1882, died; Ira W. Lewis, appointed to fill vacancy, 1882-98; Arvene S. Hyde, 1898-1903, resigned; Ira W. Lewis appointed 1903-04; William B. McMahan, 1904, present clerk.

County Clerks—Isaac S. Boardman, 1839-43; Charles T. Chase, 1843-49; J. B. Gregory, 1849-53; Thomas W. Eustace, 1853-61; James A. Hawley, 1861-82; Charles H. Gardner, 1882-86; James H. Thompson, 1886-1902; William C. Thompson, 1902-14.

County Judges—Harvey Morgan, 1839-43; O. A. Eddy, 1843-47; Lorenzo Wood, 1847-53; David Welty, 1853-61; William W. DeWolf, 1861-69; John D. Crabtree, 1869-77; James B. Charters, 1877-82; Richard S. Farrand, 1882-1902, resigned, when he was made circuit judge; Robert H. Scott, Aug. 9, 1902, present incumbent. The first few judges were called probate judges, but when their jurisdiction was enlarged, the name was changed to county judge, whose duties ex officio included those of the probate judge.

Circuit Judges—Dan Stone, 1837-40; Thomas C. Browne, 1840-48; Benjamin R. Sheldon, 1848-51; I. B. Wilkinson, 1851-56; J. W. Drury in 1856; John V. Eustace, 1856-61; William W. Heaton, 1861-78, when he died; John V. Eustace 1878 to 1888.

when he died; John D. Crabtree, 1888 to 1902, when he died; Richard S. Farrand, 1902, present incumbent. Of course it should be stated that there have been three judges from each circuit since about 1875. But in this work it has been thought best to mention only those elected from Lee county.

One a year of the county commissioners retired and a successor was elected. In 1840, George E. Haskell, was elected. In 1841, Joseph Crawford; 1842, O. F. Ayres; 1843, J. C. Morgan; 1844, D. Baird; 1845, D. H. Birdsall; 1846, James Goble, to fill vacancy caused by death of Baird; 1847, W. Badger; 1848, Stephen Fuller,—to fill vacancy.

#### STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE CREATED 1870

William E. Ives, 1872-76; Abalino C. Bardwell, 1876-80; Charles B. Morrison, 1880-96; Edward H. Brewster, 1896-1900; Charles H. Wooster, 1900-08; Harry Edwards, 1908, present incumbent.

#### LEE COUNTY OFFICIALS, 1913-14

County Officers—County judge, Robert H. Scott; county clerk, William C. Thompson; county treasurer, Frank C. Vaughan; state's attorney, Harry Edwards; sheriff, C. P. Reid; clerk circuit court and recorder, W. B. McMahan; superintendent of schools, L. W. Miller; coroner, George B. Stephan; county surveyor, L. B. Neighbour; master in chancery, A. C. Bardwell; superintendent of county home, C. L. Wicher; chairman board of supervisors, John J. Wagner.

Clerks of Appellate Court—First district, Alfred R. Porter, Chicago; second district, C. C. Duffey, Ottawa; third district, W. C. Hippard, Springfield; fourth district, A. C. Millspaugh, Mount Vernon.

Supervisors elected in 1912 for two years—Bradford, John J. Wagner, Ashton; Dixon, Luther Burket, Chas. T. Self, Dixon; E. Grove, Ralph E. Hanson, Ohio; Hamilton, Jos. Bauer, Harmon; L. Center, Kyle Miller, West Brooklyn; Marion, C. F. Welty, Amboy, R. 6; May, James Buckley, Amboy; Nelson, C. C. Buckaloo, Dixon, R. 6; S. Dixon, F. L. Young, Dixon; Viola, U. Grant Dysart, West Brooklyn; W. Creek, John H. Grove, Lee.

Elected in 1913 for two years—Alto, Morris Cook, Steward; Amboy, W. J. Edwards, Amboy; Ashton, Chas. Heibenthal, Ash-



ton; Brooklyn, John W. Banks, Compton; China, C. Gross, Franklin Grove; Dixon, O. B. Anderson, J. M. McCleary, Dixon; Harmon, E. J. Mannion, Harmon; Nachusa, F. G. Emmert, F. Grove, R. F. D.; Palmyra, Jno. P. Drew, Dixon, R. 1; Reynolds, Chas. Ewald, Steward; Sublette, Wm. Brucker, Sublette; Wyoming, A. S. Wells, Paw Paw.

Supervisors for 1913—Alto, Morris Cook, Steward, term expires 1915; Amboy, W. J. Edwards, Amboy, 1915; Ashton, Chas. Heibenthal, Ashton, 1915; Bradford, J. J. Wagner, Ashton, 1914; Brooklyn, Jno. W. Banks, Compton, 1915; China, Chris Gross, F. Grove, 1915; Dixon, O. B. Anderson, Dixon, 1915; Dixon, J. M. McCleary, Dixon, 1915; Dixon, Luther Burket, Dixon, 1914; Dixon Chas. T. Self, Dixon, 1914; E. Grove, Ralph E. Hanson, Ohio, 1914; Hamilton, Joseph Bauer, Harmon, 1914; Harmon, E. J. Mannion, Harmon, 1915; L. Center, Kyle C. Miller, W. Brooklyn, 1914; Marion, Chas. F. Welty, Amboy, 1914; May, James Buckley, Amboy, 1914; Nachusa, F. G. Emmert, F. Grove, 1915; Nelson, C. C. Buckaloo, Dixon, 1914; Palmyra, Jno. P. Drew, Dixon, 1915; Reynolds, Chas. Ewald, Steward, 1915; S. Dixon, Frank L. Young, Dixon, 1914; Sublette, Wm. Brucker, Sublette, 1915; Viola, U. Grant Dysart, W. Brooklyn, 1914; W. Creek, Jno. H. Grove, Lee, 1914; Wyoming, A. S. Wells, Paw Paw, 1915.

Standing Committees—Judiciary, Gross, Bauer, McCleary, Welty, Edwards; finance, Dysart, Wells, Banks, Heibenthal, Drew; claims, Cook, Miller, Heibenthal, Hanson, Anderson; county home, Wells, Emmert, Buckaloo, Drew, Self; pauper claims, Banks, Young, Edwards, Gross, Mannion; fees and salary, Buckaloo, McCleary, Banks, Welty, Ewald; public buildings, Emmert, Grove, Dysart, Buckley, Anderson; contingent expense and purchasing, Drew, Heibenthal, Welty, Grove, Brucker; education, Self, Hanson, Bauer, Buckley, Ewald; town accounts, Young, Miller, Edwards, Burket, Mannion; old soldiers, Grove, Cook, Heibenthal, Buckaloo, Brucker; printing, Bauer, McCleary, Gross, Hanson, Grove; roads and bridges, Buckley, Welty, Self, Burket, Ewald; rules, Wagner, Cook, Dysart, Wells, Young; Grand DeTour bridge, Burket.

Town Clerks—Alto, S. J. Whetston, Steward; Amboy, J. E. Lewis, Amboy; Ashton, Geo. B. Stephan, Ashton; Bradford, A. Aschenbrenner, Amboy, R. 2; Brooklyn, William Dishong, Compton; China, A. B. Wicker, Franklin Grove; Dixon, W. V. E. Steel, Dixon; E. Grove, Wesley Peach, Harmon; Hamilton, B. G. Reed,

Walnut; Harmon, Jno. L. Porter, Harmon; L. Center, P. L. Berry, Lee Center; Marion, W. J. McCarty, Amboy; May, J. G. Hall, Jr., Amboy; Nachusa, Geo. Weyant, Nachusa; Nelson, Walter W. Geiger, Dixon, R. 6; Palmyra, H. M. Gilbert, Dixon, R. 1; Reynolds, Herman C. Conrad, Rochelle; S. Dixon, J. W. Cortright, Dixon, R. 5; Sublette, Paul Bieber, Sublette; Viola, Andrew Anderson, West Brooklyn; W. Creek, Geo. M. Herrmann, Steward; Wyoming, E. P. Fleming, Paw Paw.

Assessors elected in 1912 for two years—Alto, A. J. Larson, Steward; Amboy, B. McCaffrey, Amboy; Ashton, S. T. Zeller, Sr., Ashton; Bradford, Chas. W. Wagner, Franklin Grove, R. 2; Brooklyn, Chas. Stout, Compton; China, A. M. Carpenter, Franklin Grove; Dixon, J. A. Whitish, Dixon; E. Grove, John McFadden, Amboy; Hamilton, W. E. Hopkins, Harmon; Harmon, Geo. Smith, Harmon; L. Center, A. B. McCrea, West Brooklyn, R. D.; Marion, Thomas Halligan, Dixon; May, P. G. Tyrrell, Amboy; Nachusa, Geo. R. Emmert, Nachusa; Nelson, James B. Stitzel, Nelson; Palmyra, Wm. Leivan, Dixon, R. 1; Reynolds, Marcus Ventler, Ashton; S. Dixon, Frank Siefkin, Dixon, R. 2; Sublette, Andrew J. Lauer, Sublette; Viola, Julius Delhotel, West Brooklyn; W. Creek, H. H. Risetter, Lee; Wyoming, Frank McBride, Paw Paw.

Collectors elected in 1912 for two years—Alto, E. T. Corwin, Steward; Amboy, Chas. J. Kiefer, Amboy; Ashton, Fred O. Beach, Ashton; Bradford, Frank Mehlhausen, Ashton; Brooklyn, Wm. Wigum, West Brooklyn; China, Jesse O'Neal, Franklin Grove; Dixon, Jonas Stultz, Dixon; E. Grove, Robert Smiley, Ohio; Hamilton, Sidney Haffenden, Harmon; Harmon, W. H. Smith, Harmon; L. Center, A. J. Fuller, Amboy, R. D.; Marion, John Finn, Amboy; May, John Minnich, Jr., Amboy; Nachusa, W. F. McClannahan, Dixon, R. 5; Nelson, Clarence Buzard, Dixon, R. 6; Palmyra, H. F. Gilbert, Dixon, R. 1; Reynolds, Chas. E. Becker, Ashton; S. Dixon, V. D. McClannahan, Dixon, R. 2; Sublette, Norbert G. Michel, Sublette; Viola, L. F. Rees, Steward; W. Creek, Vernon Noyes, Lee; Wyoming, Fred Lilly, Paw Paw.

Commissioners of Highways—Alto, J. H. Walker, Steward, term expires 1914; B. Chambers, Steward, R. 1, 1915; I. Peterson, Steward, R. 2, 1916. Amboy, G. M. Finch, Amboy, 1914; J. I. Thompson, Amboy, 1915; W. P. Long, Amboy, 1916. Ashton, C. W. Bowers, Ashton, 1914; H. W. Reitz, Ashton, 1915; E. J.



Howey, Ashton, 1916. Bradford, C. Wagner, Ashton, 1914; Adam Wendal, Franklin Grove, R. 2, 1915; H. Weishaar, Ashton, R. 1, 1916. Brooklyn, M. F. Becmer, Compton, 1914; Wm. A. Derr, West Brooklyn, 1915; A. Mehlbrech, Compton, 1916. China, Eli G. Hull, Franklin Grove, 1914; Chas. Seebach, Amboy, 1915; G. H. Kreger, Franklin Grove, 1916. Dixon, W. H. Lenox, Dixon, 1914; T. F. Rosbrook, Dixon, 1915; F. W. Fisher, Dixon, 1916. E. Grove, C. B. Rogers, Walnut, 1914; E. Friel, Amboy, 1915; G. H. Reuter, Amboy, 1916. Hamilton, P. L. Pope, Walnut, 1914; H. McDermott, Harmon, 1915; Denis Foley, Harmon, 1916. Harmon, A. C. Clayworthy, Harmon, 1914; F. E. Smallwood, Harmon, 1915; John Wolf, Harmon, 1916. L. Center, G. P. Miller, West Brooklyn, 1914; Clem Miller, Amboy, R. D., 1915; H. Herrick, Lee Center, 1916. Marion, H. Blackburn, Amboy, 1914; B. Bushman, Dixon, 1915; James McCoy, Amboy, R. 5, 1916. May, Ervin Groth, Amboy, 1914; John Fisher, Amboy, 1915; Chas. McFadden, Amboy, 1916. Nachusa, G. H. Killmer, Amboy, R. 5, 1914; J. Feldkirschner, Dixon, R. 4, 1915; E. D. Weigle, Nachusa, 1916. Nelson, J. T. Emmitt, Rock Falls, 1914; G. S. Ranson, Dixon, R. 6, 1915; T. F. Drew, Dixon, R. 6, 1916. Palmyra, F. Landis, Dixon, R. 1, 1914; J. W. Lawton, Dixon, R. 1, 1915; F. W. Brauer, Dixon, R. 7, 1916. Reynolds, N. Schaneberg, Ashton, 1914; L. B. Miller, West Brooklyn, 1915; G. Zimmerman, Steward, 1916. S. Dixon, J. P. Brechon, Dixon, R. 8, 1914; W. H. Remmers, Dixon, 1915; Peter Hoyle, Dixon, 1916. Sublette, B. H. Full, Sublette, 1914; Otto Koehler, Sublette, 1915; G. Stephenitch, Sublette, 1916. Viola, F. E. Halsey, West Brooklyn, 1914; E. H. Ellsworth, West Brooklyn, 1915; August Gehant, West Brooklyn, 1916. W. Creek, L. Heckman, Paw Paw, 1914; O. L. Hillison, Lee, 1915; P. O. Boyd, Lee, 1916. Wyoming, P. Neibergall, Paw Paw, 1914; Jay M. Smith, Paw Paw, 1915; Roy Blee, Paw Paw, 1916.

Justices of the Peace—Alto, A. Richolson, W. M. Ravnass, Steward; Amboy, Chas. E. Ives, A. A. Virgil, Jno. C. Appleman, Amboy; Ashton, Squire T. Jennings, Ashton; Bradford, Joseph Baldwin, Ashton; Brooklyn, H. A. Bernardin, West Brooklyn, J. F. Beitz, Compton; China, Willis L. Riegle, F. H. Hausen, Franklin Grove; Dixon, A. H. Hamneken, Jno. B. Crabtree, Edw. J. Condon, G. W. Gehant, Geo. W. Hill, Dixon; E. Grove, Jas. Donovan, Ohio; Hamilton, C. H. Larkin, B. H. Peterson, Harmon; Harmon, H. M. Ostrander, Harmon, Elmer H. Hess, Van Patten; L. Center, Richard Gooch, Monroe Shaw, Lee Center; Marion,

John Leonard, Dixon, R. D.; Palmyra, Harvey M. Senneff, Dixon, R. D.; S. Dixon, James Bollman, Dixon, R. D.; Sublette, Peter H. Kolde, S. C. Leffelman, Sublette; W. Creek, W. H. Herrmann, Scarboro; Wyoming, Ed. P. Fleming, Paw Paw.

Police Magistrates—Alto, S. J. Whetston, Steward; Amboy, John Holleran, Amboy; China, A. B. Wicker, Franklin Grove; Dixon, W. G. Kent, Dixon.

Constables—Alto, Jno. Buckley, Wm. J. Bowles, Steward; Amboy, Chas. E. Stanard, W. L. Eddy, Amboy; Ashton, Jno. W. Weishaar, Joel C. Wetzel, Ashton; Brooklyn, Chas. Carnahan, Compton; China, E. O. E. Orner, Wm. F. Miller, Franklin Grove; Dixon, Jno. H. Howell, Wm. S. Fletcher, Wm. V. E. Steel, Wm. Dykeman, Dixon; Hamilton, W. C. Hardesty, Walnut, Joseph Knapp, Harmon; Harmon, Wm. T. Camery, Harmon; L. Center, Joseph Miller, Clem B. Miller, Lee Center; Nelson, Fred Ohda, Nelson; Palmyra, Robert J. Drynan, Dixon, R. D.; W. Creek, F. A. Schoenholtz, Scarboro; Wyoming, L. A. Coss, W. J. Valentine, Paw Paw.

Township School Treasurers—Town 22, R. 11, N. A. Petrie, Ashton; 37, 2, Frank Wheeler, Paw Paw; 20, 11, Philo L. Berry, Lee Center; 19, 8, Geo. Hermes, Harmon; 37, 1, J. S. Richardson, Compton; 19, 9, Philip Erbes, Amboy; 19, 11, A. H. Lauer, Sublette; 22, 10, C. D. Hussey, Franklin Grove; 21, 9, Ira W. Lewis, Dixon; 39, 1, Henry Salzman, Ashton; 22, 9, E. B. Raymond, Dixon; 20, 9, Ed. Lally, Dixon; 22, 8, Fred A. Lawton, Dixon; 39, 2, G. A. Ruckman, Steward; 38, 1, H. Berscheid, Compton; 20, 8, T. H. Mannion, Harmon; 21, 8, H. W. Phillips, Dixon; 21, 11, Chas. Wagner, Ashton; 19, 10, Andrew Spohn, Amboy; 38, 2, Geo. W. Yetter, Lee; 20, 10, H. H. Badger, Amboy; 21, 10, S. A. Durkes, Franklin Grove.

#### ASSESSMENT 1912

Following is the assessed valuation of lands, lots and personal property of Lee county, by townships, for the past year, 1912.

First are given the returns as made by the assessor; next are given the values as fixed by the board of review.

This is the last valuation spread upon the records. Substantially the lands and lots for the present year will be the same. The personal property list however will be approximately half a million dollars more.

Township	Lands by Assessor	Lands by Board Review	Lots by Assessor	Lots by Board Review	Personal by Assessor	Personal by Board Review	Gain in Lands and Lots	Loss in Lands and Lots	Gain in Personal
Alto .....	567,030	567,030	37,160	37,160	86,460	90,905			4,445
Ashton .....	328,155	328,155	135,375	135,375	222,490	222,760			270
Amboy .....	363,185	363,185	194,545	194,470	186,475	195,955		75	9,480
Bradford .....	646,975	646,975			99,695	106,595			6,900
Brooklyn .....	571,540	571,540	94,695	94,695	143,870	154,705			10,835
China .....	521,370	521,370	108,100	108,100	233,935	237,240			3,305
Dixon .....	618,405	617,400	1,861,700	1,860,355	908,590	975,020		2,350	66,430
East Grove .....	296,120	296,120			25,520	25,520			
Hamilton .....	370,985	370,985			41,310	41,310			
Harmon .....	388,795	388,795	19,615	19,615	60,435	61,435			1,000
Lee Center .....	364,940	364,940	30,970	30,970	88,760	89,220			460
Marion .....	379,895	379,895	865	1,200	50,860	50,860	335		
May .....	313,845	313,845			35,085	35,085			
Nachusa .....	443,985	443,985	14,840	14,840	89,530	90,460			930
Nelson .....	342,440	342,385	8,860	8,860	57,235	59,170		55	1,935
Palmyra .....	657,086	657,080	2,730	2,730	128,160	128,410			250
Reynolds .....	544,760	544,760			74,560	75,565			1,005
South Dixon .....	516,940	517,240	4,895	4,895	101,060	102,385	300		1,325
Sublette .....	655,495	655,495	37,450	37,450	127,850	127,975			125
Viola .....	528,250	528,250			75,555	78,220			2,665
Willow Creek .....	568,630	568,630	25,250	24,285	162,710	174,175		965	11,465
Wyoming .....	601,400	601,400	107,500	107,500	173,895	175,835			1,940
	10,589,515			2,682,500		3,298,805	635	3,445	124,765









WHIPPLE CAVE



STEAMBOAT ROCK

## CHAPTER VI

### THE GEOLOGY OF LEE COUNTY

In attempting to give the rock formation of counties, the historian, generally speaking, is compelled to gather his information from sources not at all reliable, and naturally that portion of his book is unsatisfactory to himself and misleading to the reader. How fortunate therefore it was that I was enabled to secure a reliable as well as learned and exhaustive treatment of the subject. Ira W. Lewis, one of the associate editors, discovered the document and referred me to it. I have copied and embodied it in this work and I may say with truthfulness that no more valuable information will be found between these covers than the essay of Doctor Everett.

Dr. Oliver Everett, who came to Dixon in the year 1836, beyond any doubt was the most learned man who ever lived in Lee county. In the fifty odd years of active practice, he came to be beloved by every person who ever met him, and that acquaintance extended to the four corners of the county.

Night and day, for over half a century he rode the country administering to the sick. Nights and days he traveled, first the trackless prairies, then the muddy roads. Many times he had driven for forty-eight hours at a stretch before seeking his pillow. To the rich and the poor he ministered alike. If the patient was poor his name never found its way into Doctor Everett's account book and thus a fortune was scattered over the county of Lee as his contribution towards building up this community.

In that long and busy practice, he assisted something like five thousand children into this world, and it is with pride that I place my name in the long, long list of children who so early greeted the good old doctor, whose presence and assistance at such a period was so important.

During such a busy life it scarcely seems possible that he should find time to delve into the subject of geology and natural history. But he did and at the second county fair ever held in Dixon—in 1858, his great collection of natural history specimens attracted state wide attention. He also collected a large number of excessively rare American coins. Where could all of them have drifted? To deposit them to his memory would have been the appropriate thing to do, but they were neglected after his death, and now all of his specimens have perished. But so long as there is any Dixon, the memory of Doctor Everett will be cherished.

He was an historian of rare merit and nine-tenths of the old items of our history were snatched from oblivion and collected by Doctor Everett. The little book of events, arranged chronologically, and published in 1880, by the Dixon Telegraph, is a priceless thing. And for it we may thank Doctor Everett. He and John Moore, long with the Telegraph, cooperated together in bringing the little book into the world. He gathered the data and John Moore arranged them. That little book contains an account of every important event which goes to make up our history.

Full of years, he passed away beloved by all and more especially by every member of that great family of "his children" which he assisted into this world of so many uncertainties.

#### GEOLOGY

From Oregon, in Ogle County, to Sterling, in Whiteside County.  
By the late Oliver Everett, M. D.

*Read before the Illinois Natural History Society, June 27, 1860*

My object, in this paper, is to give some of the results of observations made by me upon the geology of the Rock river valley, in Lee county, and a part of Ogle and Whiteside counties, or from about Oregon, in Ogle county, to Sterling, in Whiteside county. The surface in this part of the country is much more rolling, or undulating, than in most parts of the state. This is particularly the case in the upper portion of the section alluded to in Ogle county and part of Lee county, where it is frequently cut up into deep ravines, on the sides of which the underlying rocks are often exposed to view; and the banks of Rock river and its tributaries frequently present bold, perpendicular bluffs of rock, from fifty



to two hundred feet high, thus giving a tolerably good opportunity for geological investigations. These features are most prominent in the region of one member of the geological series of which I shall hereafter speak, viz., the Upper or St. Peter's sandstone. In another section, where the Trenton lime rock underlies the drift, there are frequently found deep pits in the ground. These pits are generally more or less circular, and are from one to two or three rods in diameter, at the surface of the ground, and run to a point below. They are from ten to twenty and sometimes thirty feet deep, and have, evidently, been produced by the earth, in these places, falling into and being carried away by subterranean streams of water in the loose rock below.

Below Dixon, although the surface is considerably undulating, it is not so abruptly broken by deep ravines, and the prairies generally slope gradually to the banks of the river, seldom exposing the rocks at all. Below Dixon there is very little woodland along the banks of the river, while above, between Dixon and Oregon, a considerable portion of the country along the river is covered with timber. The timber is not generally of very heavy growth, although, in some places, on the bottom lands, it is quite large. It consists of the various species of oak and hickory common to the state, the black and white walnut, the sugar and silver-leaved maple, box-elder (*Negundo acerifolium*), sycamore, the red and white elm, hackberry, ash, linden, cottonwood, etc. The red cedar, the white pine, the ground hemlock (*Taxus Americana*), the black and the paper or canoe birch (*Betula lenta* and *Betula papyracea*), are found on the extreme verge of the rocks overhanging the river and creeks, beyond the reach of the prairie fires. All these last mentioned species, except the red cedar, are found, as far as I have observed, only upon the bluffs formed by the St. Peter's sandstone.

We should naturally expect to find on a soil produced from the disintegration of this sandstone, some plants which are not common to the rich alluvial and clayey soils of a large portion of the state. Accordingly I have found several species not included in Doctor Lapham's catalogue, and some of them not in the additional lists subsequently made by Doctors Brendell and Bebb, and which I presume are not often found in other parts of the state. Among which I might name two species of *vaccinium*, the *Areto-staphylos urauisi*, *Lupenu perrennis*, *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Talinum teretifolium*, *Lobelia kalmii*, *Cerastium oblongifolium*, *Linaria canadensis*, *Fragaria vesca*, and the *Viola lanceolate*,



which grows on the borders of ponds, or in wet places in this sandy soil.

The drift formation, through this section, is probably not so thick nor so uniform in depth as in most parts of the state. There are many things in relation to it which have peculiar interest, but my object in this paper is to speak of the rock beneath it.

There is in this section of about thirty miles of the Rock river valley, a pretty good opportunity to study several important members of the lower Silurian system and some of the lowest strata of the upper Silurian series.

Commencing at Oregon, with the St. Peter's sandstone, and ascending the geological scale, as we go down the river, we find the Buff limestone (of Owen), the Trenton limestone, the Galena limestone, and the shales, etc., representing the Hudson river group of the lower Silurian system, and the Niagara limestone of the upper Silurian series.

#### ST. PETER'S SANDSTONE

The lowest rock which we find in the section under consideration, is the Upper or St. Peter's sandstone. It is the prevailing rock along the river, from a mile above Oregon to about three miles below Grand Detour, a distance of thirteen or fourteen miles. On the northwest side of the river, I think that in no place does this rock appear on the surface more than two or three miles from the river. On the southwest side it extends several miles back from the river. I should think that the thickness of this rock could not be less than two hundred feet, and probably more. The country where this rock prevails is characterized by great unevenness. It is frequently cut up into deep and sharp ravines, and, in many places, there are bold, precipitous bluffs, from one to two hundred feet high. I have not often found these bluffs capped with the Trenton limestone, as spoken of by Professor Hall as being the case in Iowa. In many places this sandstone is interspersed with numerous horizontal bands or layers of iron, or sandstone so impregnated and cemented with the oxide of iron, as to be very firm and resisting. These layers are from less than half an inch to two inches in thickness, and occur, one above another, in some places but a few inches, and in others several feet apart. These layers resist the action of the atmosphere for a great length of time, and only give away from the disintegration and wearing away of the rock beneath, when they break off and fall from their

own weight. Between these layers the rock is sometimes very loose and friable, easily worked away with the pick.

It appears as if, during the deposition of this rock, that occasionally, in these localities, the surface was in some way covered with a sediment of the oxide of iron, which acting as a cement, rendered this portion of the rock much harder and firmer than other parts of it. If you will examine one of these layers with a magnifying glass, you will see that they are made up principally of the same minute peculiarly formed grains of quartz, of which other portions of the rock is composed, stained and partially covered with the oxide of iron. We frequently find very beautiful ripple marks on these ferruginous layers. On some of them the impress of the eddies and ripples of the old Silurian ocean appear as fresh and palpable as if produced but yesterday. These markings are sometimes very singular and curious, mimicking the forms of organized life. Here is a specimen which I have been at a loss to determine whether it has been produced by the action of the water or is an impression of some organized being. This rock is composed of small rounded grains of pure limpid quartz, which have a singular uniformity in their size and shape, in some places cohering so slightly as to crumble in the hand, and in other localities so firmly cemented as to make a good building stone. This rock is in some places of almost chalky whiteness, but more commonly it has a grayish aspect, while in other localities it has a reddish appearance, being stained with the oxide of iron.

As to the economical uses of this rock. There are several quarries in the Franklin creek, in Lee county, and in Ogle county, where it has been pretty extensively used for building, and cut into window and door sills and caps. There was a beautiful arched bridge of cut stone, from one of these quarries, built over Franklin creek, for the Chicago and Fulton railroad, when it was first constructed. Professor Hall says that this rock would make an excellent material for making glass.

It will be perceived that this rock, as it is found in the valley of Rock river, varies considerably from the description of it given by Professor Hall as it occurs in Iowa. Instead of its being uniformly the loose, friable rock, spoken of by Mr. Hall, with scarcely cohesion enough to enable him to obtain cabinet specimens of it, we frequently find it forming bold, perpendicular, and sometimes overhanging cliffs, with strength and tenacity enough to make a good building stone. There are places where the rock is flinty and

hard, and weathers out, like granite, in jagged and irregular peaks, high above the surface of the surrounding country.

#### BUFF LIMESTONE

Next to the St. Peter's sandstone, and separated from it in some places by two or three feet of shale and bluish clay, comes the Buff limestone of Owen, classed by Hall with the Trenton limestone. This is a thick bedded, compact, semi-crystalline magnesian limestone, in layers of from one to two feet in thickness. It crops out in many places above the St. Peter's sandstone.

Between these thick ledges there are thin shaly layers, an inch or two in thickness, abounding in fossils. Although those layers are full of fossils, there appears to be but a very few species. They are very imperfect—most of them are casts, and appear to be such as are common to the Trenton limestone proper. This rock is often quite fine grained and compact, and makes an excellent building stone. From an analysis of specimens of this rock in Iowa, Professor Hall thinks that it may be very useful for the manufacture of hydraulic cement, as its composition was found to more nearly resemble than any of our other magnesian limestones, that of the best rocks used for that purpose in other places. These thick bedded layers are from twelve to eighteen feet in thickness.

#### TRENTON LIMESTONE

The blue limestone of the western geologists, or the Trenton limestone of the New York survey, succeeds these magnesian beds. This rock is quite variable in its appearance. In some places it has a bluish color, particularly on a recent fracture, but more frequently it is of a dull buff color. It is not so thick bedded as the preceding rock, and is in some places quite shaly, and breaks up into small fragments when quarried. In other places the layers are compact and thick enough to make a good building stone.

There are vertical crevices frequently found in this rock, which are from two to fifteen inches in width. Sometimes they are filled with debris, and in other places are open and serve as channels for subterranean streams of water from the pits in the elevated ground back from the bluffs, which I have spoken of above. At the base of the bluff, after a heavy shower, or at the breaking up of the winter, swollen streams of turbid water may be seen rushing from them.

The Trenton limestone abounds in fossils. It is the oldest rock in this country in which we find a great profusion of the remains of organized beings, showing beyond doubt that the ocean of the lower Silurian era was filled with a multitude of the lower forms of animal life. Here is a specimen not much more than twice as large as a man's hand, that has representatives from three of the grand divisions of the animal kingdom. This central figure is a fine large trilobite, a beautiful specimen of the Articulata; and here are several fragments of coral and the stem of an Encrinure from the Radiata, while the Mollusca is represented by several of the Acephala and a Gasteropod. There are great numbers of Arthocerata found in this rock. Some of them are of very great size. I have seen sections of them that were eight inches in diameter. I have a part of one in my collection which is not more than six inches in diameter at its largest part, that is eight feet in length. Ammonites of considerable size are found in this rock. Among the Acephala are several species of Septaena. Strophomena, Orthis, etc., are common in some of the layers of this rock.

This rock is somewhat extensively used for building material, although for that purpose it is not equal in value to the magnesian beds below it. It makes excellent lime, and is extensively used for that purpose. Some of the layers of this rock, in this locality, are made up almost exclusively of fossil shells and corals, and are very compact and fine grained, and receive an excellent polish, making a very beautiful figured marble. The Trenton limestone is found principally in the bend of the river, in the upper part of Lee county, extending about four miles south, and is also found in a narrow belt on the northwest side of the river, extending from Pine creek, in Ogle county, to within a mile of Dixon.

#### GALENA LIMESTONE

The Galena limestone succeeds and rests upon the Trenton limestone. The line of demarkation between this and the Trenton limestone is not always easily ascertained. Layers, partaking sometimes more of the characteristics of one of these formations and then the other, are often found intermingled for some distance, although the characteristics of the mass of the two formations are very distinct. It appears to be the prevailing rock, underlying the surface of the elevated prairie, over a considerable portion of the northwestern part of the state—the streams having in many places cut down through it into the strata beneath. The



Galena limestone is a rock peculiar to the West, and is a very important member of the lower Silurian series. It is important not only from its thickness and the extent of country which it covers, and the many economical uses made of the rock itself, but from the rich minerals it contains, it being peculiarly the lead-bearing rock of the Northwest, as is indicated by its name.

The Galena limestone is a coarse-grained, porous, and sometimes friable rock. It has a dull grayish and sometimes yellowish color and, from its porous character, weathers out very rough and irregularly. It is everywhere characterized by its peculiar fossil, the sunflower coral, the *Coscinapora sulcata* or *receptaculites* of Hall. In the lower beds of this rock there is a very beautiful species of *Favosite* quite common. Its pentagonal columns or rather tubes, filled with transverse lamina of a pure siliceous material, radiating from a point, present a very beautiful appearance, particularly on a recent fracture. This coral is often found in large masses where it has weathered out of the rock, sometimes entire, but more frequently broken into fragments. Among the *Gasteropods* found in this rock are the *Marchisonia*, *Pleurotomaria*, etc. The *Orthoceras*, *Cryptoceras*, *Ammonite*, and some of the bivalves common to the Trenton limestone, are often found in the lower beds of this rock. This limestone is the prevailing rock along the river, from a mile above Dixon, to near Sterling, where it disappears beneath the Hudson river group and the Niagara limestone. This rock, as may be seen by the map, spreads out over a much greater extent of country as we go back from the river, on either side.

#### HUDSON RIVER GROUP

On the immediate banks of the river, along the rapids at Sterling, and at the base of the bluffs a mile above town, on the north side of the river, may be seen the various rocks, shales, clayey and bituminous deposits described by Professor Hall as the Hudson river group. The rapids in Rock river at Sterling seem to have been produced by the wearing away of the shales of this formation. I have been unable to ascertain what the exact thickness of this group may be, but think that it is probably not more than twenty-five or thirty feet. On the map accompanying this paper I have represented this formation in a narrow belt, surrounding the Niagara limestone, on the east and north side.

Although the rocks of this formation do not appear at the surface, except at the rapids and at the bluff above Sterling, I have

been able to trace them, in the course indicated on the map, by examination of the rocks thrown up in the digging of wells.

#### NIAGARA LIMESTONE

The Niagara limestone is found on the north side of the river, above Sterling, extending through the northeastern part of Whiteside county. This rock is also a magnesian limestone, and resembles, in its composition and appearance, the Galena limestone. There is a good opportunity to examine this formation at the quarries, a mile above Sterling. There it may be seen resting on a green compact rock of the Hudson river group. The lines of charts common to this rock are found there in abundance, sometimes forming layers six inches thick. The characteristic fossil of this rock, the *Catenapora Escharoides*, and a beautiful species of *Favosites* are common there. I also noticed a species of *Marchisonia* and two or three bivalves. The rock from these quarries makes an excellent building stone, and is extensively used for that purpose.

[It may be added that in Ashton, Lee Center, Reynolds and Amboy, there are small quarries, removed from the river and the creeks tributary to it, the Ashton quarry in particular furnishing a beautiful building stone. St. Luke's Episcopal church is built of it. It is a hard sandstone, and doubtless of the character mentioned by Doctor Everett.—Editor.]



## CHAPTER VII

### LEE COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR

Mrs. S. S. Dodge

It would not be just, I think, to claim that our own Lee county held more patriotic people and sent more soldiers and supplies during the Civil war than others, but that our county did stand in the fore front in all patriotic labors, we do claim and none will dispute. The fact that two great railway lines crossed each other in the county, giving an outlet in four directions, was of much more importance then, as transportation facilities were very meager, in comparison with those of today. So, a certain town, not in the center of Lee county, but well up in the northwestern corner, called Dixon, became a rallying point for quite a large section of country. Companies of soldiers, formed in other counties, were sent here to join others; some to wait days and weeks before orders came as to their location in the great struggle just commencing. The rolling stock of the railways was taxed to the utmost, and it was sad to see the brave boys often sent away in freight cars. Lee county had shared with others the uncertain and unsatisfactory state of feeling for two or three years, and it only needed the shot fired upon Fort Sumter that April day to fan to a flame the smoldering fire of patriotism. Every one from the old people to the children could think and talk of little else. Even the children, faithful little copies of the men of their families, arrayed themselves in no uncertain manner on the side where their sympathies led. The words abolitionist and secessionist were well understood, and when the word copperhead was mentioned, it meant to the child mind something very fearful. It was a marvel to my childish mind, and is to this day, the courage it must have taken for a man to avow those sentiments in this northland, which parted



him from relatives, friends and neighbors, sometimes bringing him financial losses and bodily injury; and the bitter feeling never ended, but lasted as long as life itself. The 17th of April found our people, irrespective of party, in council with great enthusiasm. The action of the administration heartily approved, a company was being formed. On the 22d the first company of volunteers met at their armory, hoisted a flag opposite the mayor's office. They elected A. B. Gorgas, captain; Henry T. Noble, first and Henry Dement, second lieutenants. Two other companies, the Dixon Cadets and the Dixon Blues, were organized, but they were not needed then, the regiments under the first call being full. Nearly all enlisted again, later, and went to the war. On the 25th the ladies of Dixon presented a handsome banner to Captain Gorgas' company. The banner was made by the ladies, and they spent days in the old Methodist church, in its making. The presentation took place in front of the old courthouse, and Miss Mary Williams delivered the presentation address. Miss Williams, later, became the wife of Henry Dement. The regiment of 970 men, of the Second Congressional district, went into camp on the old fair grounds just east of the cemetery. The drawing for position by companies gave the Dixon company, Company A. June 1, the ladies presented Company A uniforms made by their own hands. Sunday, June 16, the Thirteenth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers took the cars for Caseyville, twelve miles from St. Louis. September 2d, the Thirty-fourth Illinois Volunteers left Dixon. October 1st, a camp for recruiting and organizing troops was established on the river bank west of the railroad, somewhere near where the shoe factory now stands. Col. John Dement commander of the encampment. December 5th, Dement Phalanx go into winter quarters, in the stone building, erected for plow works, near the depots. Jan. 14, 1862, an artillery company, just raised, elected John Cheney captain. February 2d, the Forty-sixth Regiment, encamped in Dements barracks through the winter, take the cars for Springfield—John Stevens, captain, father of our bright newspaper man, Mr. Frank Stevens. June 10, a new company was formed, James W. Reardon, captain. September 4th, the Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteers in Camp Dixon, on the bank of the river, was mustered into service—five companies from Lee county, five from Whiteside. The regiment left for Louisville, Kentucky, September 27th.

And so they marched away, that beautiful army of boys, with flags flying, and the inspiring strains of the fife and drum; sad



MAJOR JOHN STEVENS



hearts, gay hearts; with experiences awaiting them to turn the strongest heart cold; weariness, loneliness, sickness, exposure, poor food, wounds, starvation in prisons, and death for thousands of them. The total quotas for Lee county were 2,454 men, and the enlistments credited to the county were eight short of that number. Just how the number was made up, whether by draft or later enlistment, there seems to have been no record. Two thousand four hundred and fifty-four men seems like a large number to take from one county, but there were many left at home. Those who were too old, others who would have gone gladly, but physical infirmities prevented. There was something for all of them to do. The business world, farms, stores and manufactories must be cared for. The supervisors of the county were a busy band of men in those days. Our great State of Illinois, from the outset, was determined that the quotas called for should be filled by enlisted men, and not by drafting. It became necessary after a time, for our county to offer a bounty. At the November term in 1863, a bounty of \$100 was offered to every accepted volunteer. The treasury being low, it was necessary to issue \$15,000 in bonds for that purpose. At the February term of the supervisors' court, it was reported that \$4,061.50 had been distributed, as a relief fund to families of volunteers. On July 18, 1864, the President called for 500,000 more men, and on September 14th the board appropriated \$900 for each and every man enlisting to fill said call. The clerk was also authorized to issue orders not to exceed \$150,000. He was also ordered to draw notes on the county treasury for a sum not to exceed \$2,000 for the relief of families of volunteers, not to exceed \$100 each. June 20, 1861, the Volunteer Aid Association secured subscriptions to the amount of \$2,625, as a fund for the benefit of families of absent volunteers. Much individual work was done; loads of wood hauled, sawed and split, provisions sent where needed, clothing as well. One item along this line I found, touched my heart deeply. Nov. 2, 1864, a number of young men in the public schools formed a patriotic club for the purpose of aiding soldiers' widows and families in need of help that they could render—Carlos Burr, president; LaFayette Davis, vice president; Goodwin Patrick, secretary; Sherwood Dixon, assistant secretary; Charles Giles, treasurer.

The reports of the adjutant general show that Lee county paid \$405,214.75 bounties; to soldiers' families, \$15,465.75; besides \$218,707.55 paid as interest on county warrants or bonds, making a



total of \$639,388.05. This was more than was expended by any other county in the state, Cook and Bureau counties alone excepted.

And the women! What did they do! Do! What didn't they do! After the partings were over, and who can measure the silent agony they endured! Wives who saw the husbands go, leaving them to be father and mother to the children and often the bread winner too; mothers who saw the school book drop from the son's hand or the hoe in the field it might be, with the far away look in the eyes, hearing the distant call; and when they said, "Mother, we must go!" said never a word to keep them back. Sweet girls saw their lovers march away, taking the sunlight of happiness out of their lives. The story of the Spartan mother has always inspired admiration for her noble courage and patriotism; but in 1861 there were Spartan mothers at every cross road and in every hamlet of this great country. When the reaction came after these dreadful partings, there was work in plenty for these women to do—and then, as always, it was a source of relief. Indeed for a time, there was a perfect fury of work; no doubt much was wasted at that time from lack of organization. As has been mentioned, the Dixon ladies made the uniforms for Company A, Thirteenth Regiment, under the efficient superintendence of Mr. W. J. Carpenter, and assistants, Messrs. Decamp and Cheeseman, did great service cutting and fitting the many garments. Sewing machines were rather a new thing here, and not very numerous, and were taken to Union Hall, known now as Maccabee Hall, and many women's hands made quick work, assisted by several of the boys, who were always ready to help by running the machines for the tired ladies. A few of those dear women are still with us; many have passed on.

Union Hall was used all that long summer for meetings for work, packing supplies, and entertainments of all kinds—fairs, dinners, suppers, dances and concerts, anything that would bring in money to help the soldiers. When the cold weather came on, meetings for work were held at the different homes, as it was too expensive to heat the hall. In March, 1862, the ladies of Dixon formed a Soldiers' Aid Society, under the leadership of Mrs. Enoch Wood, a natural-born organizer and most efficient in every way. Among the many interesting things they did, I would like to mention one; and that was the making of a silk album quilt. In the center of each block was a white silk piece, on which names were written by Mrs. Alice McComsey Burton; each name of course bringing in a small sum of money. The quilt was bought,

and given back, sold over and over again. It finally found its way to Chicago, was displayed at a fair given by the Sanitary Commission. A Mr. Howard who had lived in Dixon years before, saw it, learned that it was made in Dixon, bought it, and it was used and prized by the Howard family until it was ragged and worn out. The Dixon women were called upon to do a great deal of cooking the first year.

Word would be circulated that a company would be here at a certain time, totally unprovided for, and the men must be cared for until arrangements for government rations could be made. So, on would go the coffee pots, and the lard kettles for frying doughnuts, and bread baked as soon as possible. At other times train loads of soldiers passing through the town would stop for a meal. Then there were the companies encamped here, for different lengths of time, always welcomed any home cooking, vegetables especially, to vary their very monotonous menu of hard dry biscuits and poor salt meat. Many were the pails of cooked tomatoes, beans and vegetables of all kinds that those devoted women carried to the barracks in the west end. So our active women had plenty of this work, lacking any other. The old ladies knitted socks, and made night shirts for the wounded in hospitals; the young ladies sang war songs at concerts, the most pathetic songs ever composed, unspeakably dear to the hearts of every true man and woman; school girls wrote letters to boy schoolmates who had gone to the front. Who can tell how much good those cheery letters did those homesick boys. The little girls scraped lint, made little comfort bags, made other little articles, held little fairs and brought their money to be used by the Sanitary Commission, for the poor soldiers. Then after all the work and strain, came the waiting time for those faithful women; who can tell the agonies of hope deferred, through one, two, three and four long years. Sometimes good news came, sometimes the saddest, but worst than all were those to whom no news ever came, whose loved ones lie in unknown graves.

One busybody I have not mentioned; he of the tiny bow and arrows, our little god of love. He was here, there and everywhere. Mason and Dixon line meant nothing at all to him, and if he shot one of his arrows and found impaled upon it a bluecoat, or "Yank," and a bitter little southern rebel, or a greycoat and a serious-eyed northern nurse, he only laughed at the confusion he had made. He put it into the minds of many of the soldier boys, that instead of "The girl he left behind him," it should be the wife,

and many a going away morning saw a quiet wedding. In my own family a dear young uncle of barely twenty-one was married the morning he left for the war. He was sent home soon, on account of illness, spent a short three weeks with his bride, then back again, to die shortly, a victim of poor food and insanitary surroundings. He has been sleeping away the years in the Southland, with thousands of others, within sound of the mighty Mississippi waters, with the stately magnolia trees above him swinging their snowy censers, and the mocking birds trilling a tireless requiem.

Truly Lee county did a great work during those troublous years. All honor we render, where we feel much honor is due. But one criticism we must make and it lies very near the hearts of many of her good citizens.

Fifty years have passed since those gallant men marched away, and Lee county has reared no memorial for those 2,454 men who gave up everything, some of them, even life itself, that this country be made peaceful and prosperous.

Lee county is rich and prosperous. Our supervisors have seen to it that we have a fine courthouse and other county buildings, but nothing to him of the musket who made these prosperous conditions. Our neighboring counties are not so remiss. Winnebago has a fine memorial hall in Rockford, with beautiful assembly room, museum, amusement rooms, dining room and kitchen; and all about the walls, bronze tablets with the name of every soldier who went from the county. I am very proud that my soldier husband's name is among the number. Stephenson county has a monument just in front of the courthouse in Freeport. Ogle county has provided a memorial hall in the courthouse in Oregon, with marble tablets with the soldiers' names upon them upon the walls. It would seem if the matter is not taken up, during the life of the present generation, it is probable it never would be. Some may say, why not let some individual or organization rear a memorial of some kind? I have no doubt there are those who would be willing to do so, but it should not be an individual gift. It should be a tribute from every one in the county.

Is it not true, that we are more interested, and prize more highly, something in which we have a share?

While motoring in Wisconsin the past summer we spent a day in Janesville, and there in front of the courthouse was a massive granite monument, simply in memory of the soldiers of Rock county. Then in Baraboo, we spent two days, and almost the first thing I saw when I looked out of the hotel window, which



faced the courthouse square, was a soldiers' monument, Sauk county's tribute to her soldiers. What do the children think, when we try to teach them patriotism, when we have no memorial to point to with pride, as a token of our love and appreciation? How much it would mean to the families of those who gave their loved ones, to see in our beautiful courthouse park, a fitting tribute, in which they would have a vital interest? And what a lesson in patriotism to the community at large, every time they passed that way, to look upon that memorial of courage and bravery.

It would seem as though our present honorable board of supervisors could not do a more fitting or beautiful thing, than to make a suitable appropriation for this object of love and duty.

Very soon the veterans will all have passed to the better land. When our Great Commander shall call all His brave boys, for a final review, there will be no neglected or disappointed ones. He will credit every one for every noble deed, and in His smile of approval, they will find perfect satisfaction.

When we stand before Him, and He asks if we did all we could in love, gratitude and appreciation, for this great army of men, not for what they were themselves, for their sacrifice entailed on many of them, broken health, shattered bodies, minds and morals, but for the great things they did for each and every one of us, what shall our answer be!

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## LEE COUNTY'S SOLDIERS IN THE CIVIL WAR

In running through the Adjutant General's reports to find the names of the soldiers who enlisted from Lee county, a perfect roster cannot be claimed. I found other Wyomings, Sugar Groves, Hamiltons, Marions, Franklins, Brooklyns, and Palmyras. In such cases, if no other Lee county names were found, no attention was paid to them. I feel, however, that a reasonably accurate list has been completed. One or two desertions have been noted. Others may have deserted, but I doubt it. The boys from Lee were a loyal body of men.

In many cases where recruiting was progressing just over the line in neighboring towns, if recruits got their mail there, the recruiting station was credited with the recruit and not Lee county, so that I lost the name.

## HISTORY OF LEE COUNTY

## EIGHTH INFANTRY

James H. Barrell, Amboy, Co. G; Alexander Algood, Amboy, Co. H; Peter Barnard, Amboy, Co. H. Transferred from the 11th: Alexander H. Crowell, Amboy, Co. H. Unassigned Recruits: Charles K. Ramsay, Andrew Roe, Martin J. Roberts, George W. Rentpo, Levi L. Rentpo, Daniel Sullivan, William A. Short, Philip Stout, Samuel V. Shoemaker.

## NINTH INFANTRY

Michael Farley, Amboy, Co. E.

## TENTH INFANTRY

Company G: Ephraim A. Wilson, Dixon; Guy W. Blanchard, Palmyra; William Hartman, Palmyra; William Andrew, Palmyra; Guy H. Blanchard, Palmyra; Justus C. Blanchard, Palmyra; Daniel M. Cary, Palmyra; William E. Desk (or Dech), Palmyra; William Hartman, Palmyra; David Kinney (or Kenney), Palmyra; George Lenox, Palmyra; William E. Lord, Palmyra; Jerome B. Morgan, Palmyra; Spencer C. Morgan, Palmyra; Michael O'Brien, Palmyra; George Rouch (or Rousch), Palmyra; Hero S. Siefken, Dixon; Henry W. Warn, Palmyra; Charles C. Williams, Dixon; Freeman D. Rosebrook (or Rosbrook), Dixon; Henry Bremer, Harmon; Jacob Julfs, Harmon; John M. Kinney (or Kenney), Dixon; Eugene A. Miller, Harmon; Japhet B. Smith, Harmon; James B. Shorter, Harmon. Henry J. Heren, Dixon, unassigned.

## ELEVENTH REGIMENT

Everett E. Chase, Amboy, Co. A; Henry Knaht, Lee county, Co. A; George F. Morgan, Lee county, Co. A; Stephen S. Seolley (or Scully), Lee county, Co. B; August Leusch, Lee county, Co. C; James H. Barrell, Lee county (who was transferred to the Eighth), Co. D; George H. Brown, Lee county, Co. D; Wilson J. Fisher, Lee county, Co. D; John H. Pieronnet, Amboy, (who was transferred to Co. H, 46th), Co. E; Arthur Merrigold, Lee county, Co. E; Jesse B. Weddell, Amboy, Co. E; Henry E. Wiley, Amboy, Co. E; Peter M. Barnard, Dixon, Co. F; Thomas B. Fisher, Amboy, Co. G; William E. Morse, Amboy, Co. G; Christian Plank, Amboy,



Co. H; Charles H. Gardner, Dixon, Co. I; Patrick Shehan, Dixon, Co. I; David B. Wilson, Amboy, Co. K. Unassigned: From Amboy, Walter L. Armstrong, Levy Bainter, John Burke, Thomas Shortleff.

## TWELFTH REGIMENT

Company B: Jesse F. Hale, Amboy; Julius Arndt, Amboy; Sylvester Bidwell, Willow Creek; Henry Bothe, Amboy; Harlan L. Brewer, Amboy; Clark Camp, Bradford; Isaac W. Camp, Bradford; Martin L. Clink, Lee Center; John C. Clink, Sublette; William Colwell, Amboy; John Cook, Brooklyn; Albert R. Cumpston, Lee county; Joseph Cullison, Dixon; William Culver, Dixon; William C. Doan, Amboy; John Griffin, Amboy; Alva Griswold (or Griffin), Amboy; Frederick Hammerly, Amboy; Martin Hammerly, Amboy; Jacob Hammerly, Amboy; David E. Jeffs, China; James Long, Amboy; James McManus, Dixon; Thomas W. Moffitt, Amboy; James B. Nesbit, Lee county; Charles W. Peterson, Lee Center; William H. Post, Ashton; Jacob Stephens, Brooklyn; Freegift Vandervort, Amboy; John F. Doan, Amboy; Jesse H. Doan, Amboy; Lewis M. Wilcox, Lee Center.

Christopher C. Miller, Dixon, Co. G. John J. Boyce, Dixon, Co. K.

## THIRTEENTH REGIMENT

John B. Wyman, Colonel, Amboy; Adam B. Gorgas, Amboy; David H. Law, Asst. Surgeon, Dixon; J. Spafford Hunt, Asst. Surgeon, Dixon; Joseph C. Miller, Chaplain; Martin H. Williams, Sergeant Major, Dixon; David L. Cleinment, Sergeant Major, Amboy; H. F. Van Houghton, Com. Sergeant, Dixon; Josiah K. Goodwin, Hospital Steward, Amboy; Hobart P. Wicks, Musican, Dixon; John A. D. Heaton, Musician, Dixon.

Company A: Henry T. Noble, Capt., Dixon; A. Judson Pinkham, Capt., Dixon; Henry D. Dement, 1st Lieutenant, Dixon; Mark M. Evans, 1st Lieutenant, Dixon; Benj. Gilman, 2d Lieutenant, Dixon; George L. Aekin, 2d Lieutenant, Dixon; George Bass, Ashton; Henry VanHouton, Dixon; Corydon L. Heath, Dixon; Samuel Tuhl, Dixon; Alexander Pitts, Dixon; Edwin A. Snow, Dixon; Dwight Heaton, Dixon; James M. Shaw, Lee Center; Martin C. Auld, Dixon; Henry M. Demphes, Dixon; Richard B. Young, Dixon; Cyrline B. Ayres, Dixon; Henry A. Anderson, Dixon; Martin Abels, Dixon; Palmer Atkins, Dixon; DeGras W. Brittain, Paw Paw; Charles A. Becker, Dixon; Charles Boucher,

Dixon; Samuel Boyer, Dixon; James H. Boyd, Dixon; Dennison Baudon, Dixon; John H. Brubaker, Dixon; James Brennan, Dixon; Horace W. Beal, Dixon; Martin Blaer, Dixon; Charles A. Benjamin, Dixon; Amos P. Curry, Dixon; John D. Crabtree, Dixon; Jonathan H. Crabtree, Dixon; Wm. H. Cheeseman, Dixon; Osborne Cheney, Dixon; James E. Covell, Dixon; William Coffee, Dixon; Henry A. Devlin, Dixon; George F. Dunwiddie, Dixon; Mark Evans, Dixon; Henry W. Glassey, Dixon; Charles J. Goble, Dixon; William H. Griffin, Dixon; Lewis Gregwire, Dixon; John H. Gilgan, Dixon; Milton Giles, Dixon; Austin Gallup, Dixon; Robert Hadley, Dixon; Leroy Hallowell, Dixon; John Hamill, Dixon; Orville Hamilton, Dixon; James A. Hill, Dixon; Edward Heaton, Dixon; George W. Harkniess, Dixon; Clinton D. Harrison, Dixon; William Irwin, Dixon; Albert Kelly, Dixon; Mark W. Link, Dixon; William M. Mann, Dixon; Joseph R. Morrill, Dixon; George F. Mann, Dixon; Henry Moseley, Dixon; William H. Mead, Dixon; John Oakley, Dixon; Benjamin F. Pratt, Lee Center; Oscar H. Phillbrick, Dixon; Charles W. Reynolds, Dixon; Ed. V. E. Remington, Dixon; Miller Santee, Dixon; Rollin H. Stearns, Lee Center; Egbert D. Shaw, Lee Center; Thomas H. Smurr, Dixon; Charles H. Sutton, Dixon; Cyrus P. Smith, Paw Paw; Charles W. Snyder, Dixon; Jedediah Shaw, Dixon; Norman P. Sterling, Dixon; David N. Slearry (or David H. Starry), Dixon; Andrew Voorhees, Dixon; George W. Wells, Dixon; Joshua W. Wood, Dixon; Jacob R. Wolverton, Dixon; Hugh Wilson, Dixon; Charles A. Williams, Dixon; William H. Woodgatt, Dixon; Patrick Walsh, Dixon; John M. Walty, Dixon; Lyman M. Cole, Dixon; Joseph S. Potter, Dixon; George D. Burton, Dixon; Seth D. W. C. Brittain, Paw Paw; William Cook, Dixon; James E. Edson, Dixon; Sherman A. Griswold, Lee Center; Joseph Hill, Dixon; Seth J. Heaton, Dixon; John W. King, Dixon; Peter LaForge, Jr., Franklin Grove; William G. McGinnis, Dixon; Patrick McKeever, Dixon; Charles H. Noble, Dixon; Charles F. Sawyer, Lee Center; John Schwab, Dixon; Oscar H. Webb, Dixon; Edward White, China.

Company C: Henry M. Messenger, Amboy, Capt.; George B. Sage, Amboy, Capt.; Nathaniel Neff, Amboy, 1st Lieut.; Simeon T. Joslyn, Amboy, 1st Lieut.; John A. Shipman, Amboy, Sergt.; David L. Cleinmert, Amboy, Sergt.; William H. Hale, Sublette, Sergt.; Frank A. Wood, Sublette, Sergt.; Frederiek W. Cooper, Melugin's Grove, Corporal; William H. Ripley, Amboy, Corporal; Alexander Rollo, Amboy, Corporal; Alexander McNaugh-



RETINION OF THE THIRTEENTH REGIMENT, ILLINOIS VOLUNTEER INFANTRY, IN FRONT OF THE  
NACHTSA HOUSE, MAY 24, 1883





ten, Amboy, Corporal; Albert B. McKune, Sublette, Corporal; Herman G. Huster, Amboy, Corporal; George M. Berkley, Sublette, Corporal; Tracy F. Marshall, Amboy, Musician; Frank Leer, Amboy, Musician; Richard Atkinson, Amboy; Edward A. Barnard, Amboy; Otis B. Bridgman, Amboy; John F. Baniter, Amboy; Willis Bronson, Amboy; John Creamer, Amboy; Henry Christie, Melugin's Grove; James Christianer, Melugin's Grove; Valentine Cortz, Amboy; Michael Casey, Amboy; Henry Clay, Amboy; Sylvanus Cole, Melugin's Grove; John Dykeman, Amboy; Andrew DeWolf, Lee Center; Frederick P. Fox, Amboy; Samuel C. Fairchild, Melugin's Grove; Joseph C. Fishell, Sublette; Mills (or Miles) J. Gifford, Amboy; James E. Gray, Lee Center; Josiah K. Goodwin, Amboy; E. C. Hubbard, Amboy; John Hector, Amboy; Alfred Hastings, Sublette; Alexander Hamilton, Amboy; Theodore Hyde, Melugin's Grove; Simeon C. Huff, Amboy; Willard Jones, Amboy; James A. Keat, Amboy; Charles D. Keene, Melugin's Grove; Nelson Lane, Melugin's Grove; William J. Lynch, Amboy; Nathan Megarry, Amboy; Zachariah Mathews, Amboy; James McCallum, Amboy; James H. Montgomery, Dixon; Harry W. McKune, Sublette; Jacob Nelson, Amboy; Stephen T. Parker, Melugin's Grove; Adam Roundenbush, Amboy; T. Frank Rosbach, Amboy; Dorson A. Rosecrans, Ashton; Charles Runrill, Amboy; James Shultz, Franklin Grove; Talman A. Selley, Amboy; Amos E. Sweet, Melugin's Grove; Robert H. Thompson, Melugin's Grove; Edward Thompson, Melugin's Grove; Hudson R. Unks, Amboy; Thomas W. Willars, Amboy; Charles C. Wilson, Amboy; George P. Wood, Sublette; Remington Warriner, Paw Paw; Patrick Ward, Ashton; L. Eells Jackson, Sublette; Richard E. Ash, Sublette; Hugh Carr, Sublette; William H. Curley, Amboy; David Fairchilds, Melugin's Grove; Albert H. Higday, Melugin's Grove; Hannibal Keene, Paw Paw; Daniel McCoy, Franklin Grove; William Morse, Sublette; Sheldon Marsh, Melugin's Grove; Abram J. Rodabaugh, Amboy; Benjamin F. Shinneman, Melugin's Grove; Osgood Wyman, Amboy; Ogden Fairchilds, Viola.

Company F: Charles Cook, Dixon.

Company G: Stephen E. Austin, Dixon; Samuel Genung, Dixon; Leroy Genung, Dixon; Warren Genung, Dixon; John E. Hayes, Dixon; Adam C. Hartzell, Dixon; John Linguin, Dixon.

Company H: Edwin Wales, Paw Paw; Grove Arnold, Paw Paw.

Company K: Franklin Holley, Lee Center; Jacob Wagner, Dixon; Hercules Wood, Dixon.

#### FIFTEENTH REGIMENT

John W. Vertress, Amboy, Co. D; Francis A. Fish, Franklin Grove, Co. G; Robert S. Savidge, Franklin Grove, Co. G; Bascom Decker, Franklin Grove, Co. G.

#### FIFTEENTH REORGANIZED

Company D: Ezekiel Giles, Dixon, Capt.; Volney Bliss, Lee Center, 1st Lieut.; Charles A. Harper, Nelson, 2d Lieut.; William J. McVay, May, Sergeant; Milton E. Barker, Lee Center, Sergeant; Charles P. Giles, Dixon, Sergeant; William Barber, Lee Center, Corporal; Ralph O. Tripp, Lee Center, Corporal; Albert N. Shoemaker, Lee Center, Corporal; Samuel R. Lichtenberger, Harmon, Corporal; George Aschenbrenner, Lee Center; Christopher Bierce, Amboy; Carlos C. Burr, Dixon; Charles W. Frost, Lee Center; Josiah L. Gray, Lee Center; Parnack B. Haradan, Palmyra; Emery M. June, China; Samuel H. Liedy, Dixon; Calvin P. Linn, Lee Center; James McConnell, May; Barnett Neill, Lee Center; John H. Penfield, Lee Center; Elijah Robinson, Lee Center; James C. Vroman, Lee Center; William H. Woodyatt, Lee Center; Albert G. Wheaton, China; Cyrus Whipkey, Nelson; Cyrus L. Woodruff, Bradford.

Company G: Albert Bliss, Jr., Sublette, Captain; Devalson J. Kimball, Paw Paw, 1st Lieut.; Augustus S. Chappell, Dixon, 2d Lieut.; Henry Cole, Paw Paw, Sergeant; Cyrus C. Wood, Paw Paw, Sergeant; Henry C. Allen, Alto, Sergeant; John R. Miller, Amboy, Corporal; Luther W. Mitchell, Palmyra, Corporal; Richard M. Gano, Alto, Corporal; Francis M. Mendenall, Amboy, Musician; Elijah Allen, Amboy; William J. Cockrum, Amboy; James H. Carlile, Amboy; William J. Caspen, Amboy; Isaac Denham, Amboy; Thomas J. Dunkle, Amboy; Charles H. Dunkle, Amboy; Joshua Epperson, Alto; John Harrington, Paw Paw; William Howell, Paw Paw; James H. Johnson, Alto; Isaac C. Jones, Paw Paw; John Jackson, Paw Paw; James T. Johnson, Marion; Mathias Klinker, Marion; John Meeks, Amboy; Stephen J. Morris, Paw Paw; Thomas C. McClure, Marion; Elisha P. Nooner, Amboy; William J. Pearson, Amboy; John Poland, Wyoming; Francis E. Rogers, Wyoming; James A. Ratliff,

Amboy; Ira D. Swartwout, Wyoming; John Smith, Willow Creek; John D. Sharp, Amboy; Wyatt Tucker, Amboy; John B. Titus, Brooklyn; Edward R. Therig, Marion; William Trowbridge, Marion; Isaac Williams, Amboy; Daniel Ward, Amboy; Joseph F. Wheeler, Brooklyn; William R. Miller, Amboy; Hiram Knepper, Marion; Henry R. Mon, Marion; Henry H. Stull, Marion.

Company I: Benjamin F. Gifford, Alto, Captain; Septer Roberts, Viola, 1st Lieut.; Nathaniel A. Nettleton, Willow Creek, 2d Lieut.; William Dearth, Palmyra, 2d Lieut.; Job T. Lane, Brooklyn, Sergeant; Benjamin Nettleton, Willow Creek, Sergeant; Jeremiah Conway, Reynolds, Sergeant; Marvin Reed, Alto, Sergeant; Abram Parker, Viola, Corporal; Granville S. Dunton, Viola, Corporal; William J. Dawson, Brooklyn, Corporal; James Keghtlinger, Willow Creek, Corporal; Chandler Holton, Willow Creek, Corporal; Leander Walrath, Alto, Corporal; James O. Van Campen, Viola, Corporal; John D. Wheeler, Wyoming, Corporal; Samuel Argraves, Viola; Minor M. Avery, Viola; Thomas Armstrong, Reynolds; Nathaniel C. Allen, Willow Creek; Adin Briggs, Willow Creek; George S. Briggs, Willow Creek; Bigelow Barnhart, Willow Creek; Robert E. Blair, Viola; Allen Cole, Viola; Emanuel Depus, Viola; Frederick Erbes, Willow Creek; Edwin C. Freeman, Alto; John M. Fisk, Reynolds; Robert P. Golden, Wyoming; David Guthrie, Viola; Henry Grobe, Nelson; Joseph Hethrington, Amboy; McClure Hyde, Brooklyn; James W. Hyde, Brooklyn; David Holdren, Brooklyn; Samuel Hough, Brooklyn; Santee Hess, Willow Creek; Charles E. Hull, Willow Creek; James D. Hull, Brooklyn; Henry E. Jewell, Viola; Truman Johnson, Viola; Andrew Jackson, Willow Creek; William D. Jenkins, Wyoming; Joseph Kugler, Willow Creek; John Kasler, China; John E. King, Palmyra; David Lewis, Brooklyn; Thomas Machen, Amboy; Andrew McGaffey, Palmyra; William J. Melugin, Brooklyn; Clement B. Miller, Willow Creek; William S. Mills, Willow Creek; Daniel Mittan, Wyoming; John Rankin, China; John F. Seavey, Palmyra; Hamilton P. Stow, Wyoming; Charles D. Steinbrook, Willow Creek; William Sherwood, Reynolds; William H. Taylor, Viola; Hosea R. Town, Wyoming; Christian C. Uhl, Nelson; William Van Anker, Wyoming; Charles Wright, Amboy; Winfield S. Whitaker, Viola; William A. Whitcomb, Palmyra; Robert Wells, Willow Creek; John W. Wood, Willow Creek; Thomas F. Maddox, Marion; Peter Ruffin, Nelson.

Daniel Woodmansee, Lee county, Co. E, 16th Reg.; A. N. George, Lee county, Co. B, 19th Reg.; Joseph R. Hunt, Lee county,



Co. E, 19th Reg.; Daniel L. Yeomans, Lee county, Co. B, 19th Reg.; John P. Clay, Viola, Co. H, 19th Reg.; John Metcalf, Wyoming, Co. B, 21st Reg.; James Nicholas, Wyoming, Co. B, 21st Reg.; John Agler, Wyoming, Co. C, 21st Reg.; Henry A. Black, Franklin Grove, Co. C, 21st Reg.; Charles T. Bowers, Franklin Grove, Co. C, 21st Reg.; Alfred A. Beede, Palmyra, Co. C, 21st Reg.; David S. Bixby, Amboy, Co. C, 21st Reg.; William Brubaker, China, Co. C, 21st Reg.; John A. Barrett, Wyoming, Co. C, 21st Reg.; Charles Bach, Sublette, Co. C, 21st Reg.; William Casterline, Franklin Grove, Co. C, 21st Reg.; Ira Dexter, May, Co. D, 21st Reg.; Samuel Farseman, Willow Creek, Co. D, 21st Reg.; Charles Fairchilds, Bradford, Co. D, 21st Reg.; George W. Hall, Brooklyn, Co. D, 21st Reg.; Albert Hubbard, Brooklyn, Co. D, 21st Reg.; Christopher C. Hodges, Wyoming, Co. D, 21st Reg.; Phillip Hackett, Wyoming, Co. D, 21st Reg.; Murray Johnson, May, Co. D, 21st Reg.; Henry Johnson, China, Co. D, 21st Reg.; Charles H. Kelly, Wyoming, Co. E, 21st Reg.; Jacob Luft, Sublette, Co. E, 21st Reg.; Avery Merriman, Wyoming, Co. E, 21st Reg.; Emery R. Morrill, Palmyra, Co. E, 21st Reg.; Harvey A. Morris, Wyoming, Co. E, 21st Reg.; Oscar R. Morse, Sublette, Co. E, 21st Reg.; Edgar A. Madison, Wyoming, Co. E, 21st Reg.; James A. Smith, Dixon, Co. E, 21st Reg.; Joseph A. Miller, Amboy, Co. F, 21st Reg.; Henry Nicholas, Hamilton, Co. F, 21st Reg.; Elijah R. Odell, Sublette, Co. F, 21st Reg.; Hiram Pence, China, Co. F, 21st Reg.; Richard A. Steele, Wyoming, Co. F, 21st Reg.; John Smith, China, Co. F, 21st Reg.; Charles B. Stanard, Brooklyn, Co. F, 21st Reg.; Chas. W. Reed, Melugin's Grove, Co. I, 21st Reg.; George N. Scott, Sublette, Co. I, 21st Reg.; Charles D. Timothy, Franklin Grove, Co. I, 21st Reg.; Seymour Warner, Wyoming, Co. I, 21st Reg.; Henry Wolf, Sublette, Co. I, 21st Reg.; Charles H. Ingalls, Lee Center, Co. K, 21st Reg.; George A. Sickels, Dixon, Co. K, 21st Reg.; Henry S. Palmer, Dixon, Com. Sergt., 22d Reg., enlisted Co. D; Thomas F. Beemer, Willow Creek, Co. D, 23d Reg.; Horatio Farnham, Amboy, Co. F, 23d Reg.; Allen F. White, Dixon, 1st Corp., Co. H, 23d Reg.; Wm. Bundy, Dixon, Co. H, 23d Reg.; Frederick Kuhre, Dixon, Co. H, 23d Reg.; Taylor Morris, Dixon, Co. H, 23d Reg.; Samuel McChesney, Dixon, Co. H, 23d Reg.; Miles L. Reed, Alto, 2d Lieut., Co. I, 23d Reg.; George Allen, Dixon, Co. I, 23d Reg.; Elisha H. Beadle, Dixon, Co. I, 23d Reg.; Alfred Cornish, Dixon, Co. I, 23d Reg.; Peter Dule, Dixon, Co. I, 23d Reg.; David H. Henry, Dixon, Co. I, 23d Reg.; Michael Spooner, Dixon, Co. I, 23d Reg., this fellow deserted;



James H. Thompson, Dixon, Co. I, 23d Reg.; Michael Garsensmicht, Amboy, Co. A, 24th Reg. David Abbott, Milton Hallister and Peter Blackburn, all of China township, enlisted in the regular army. Abbott died in camp of smallpox; Blackburn served his time and Hallister was rejected for physical disabilities. Charles Montonk, Dixon, Co. B, 32d Reg.

## THIRTY-THIRD REGIMENT

Albert M. Brookfield, Dixon, Co. A; Robert A. Buskile, Marion, Co. A; Charles Hanger, Marion, Co. A; Walter C. Ross, Marion, Co. A; Charles G. Howell, Dry Grove, Co. A; Arents Ross, Dry Grove, Co. A; Newton G. B. Brown, Wyoming, Co. B; Lewis Thomas, Wyoming, 2d Lieut., Co. B; William H. Ellis, Wyoming, Co. B; Adolph Nehring, Sugar Grove, Co. B; William C. Rolls, Brooklyn, Co. C, Musician; James D. Brower, Sugar Grove, Co. D; John Moore, Sugar Grove, Co. D.

## THIRTY-FOURTH REGIMENT

Alexander P. Dysart, Colonel, China; Peter F. Walker, Lieut. Col., Bradford; Charles N. Levanway, Maj., Dixon; Henry D. Woods, Adjutant, Dixon; John L. Hostetter, Surgeon, Dixon; George W. Hewitt, Ass't Surgeon, China; Michael Decker, Chaplain, China; Henry H. Glenn, Q. M. Sergt., Ashton; B. F. Dysart, Q. M. Sergt., China; John H. Wingert, Musician, China.

Company A: Israel R. Babcock, Nelson; Marcus Beal, Dixon; Alpheus Beal, Dixon, Isaac R. Crygier, Dixon; Frederick Kester, Dixon; George A. Loner, Dixon; David H. Merriks, Dixon.

Company B: Stephen I. Richmond, Lee. (?)

Company C: Benson Wood, China; Leander W. Rosecrans, China; J. Wesley Williams, 1st Lieut., China; J. Lindsay Block, 1st Lieut., China; David Wingert, 1st Lieut., China; B. Frank Dysart, 2d Lieut., China; Alexander Allen, 2d Lieut., China.

Sergeants: Adoniram Keene, Bradford; David A. Glenn, China; Wesley J. Williams, China.

Corporals: John P. Lahman, China; Samuel S. Worley, China; George E. Crum, China; William A. Seitz, China; Thomas Flynn, Bradford; Sidney Davis, China; Samuel Fish, China.

Musicians: Philo C. Williams, China; Jeremiah H. Stevens, China.

Privates: Frank Abner, China; Alexander Allen, China; John Adams, Bradford; Matthias Blair, China; Isaac Barnard, China; Josiah G. Bowers, China; Miles Bahen, China; Henry E. Brown, China; Thomas W. Brown, China; Francis H. Brown, China; Wallace Butler, China; Jacob Burgy, China; Robert C. Boyd, China; James P. Carter, Bradford; Jason F. Calwell, China; Robert Calwell, China; Alexander Depuy, Dixon; Jacob B. Emmert, China; Philip Ensminger, China; Jonathan B. Fellows, China; John G. Gillott, China; Royal Harkness, China; Henry Hoffmaster, Bradford; Alvin Holbrook, China; William Hunt, China; Jacob I. Hunt, China; Jacob B. Hoft, China; Alexander P. Hittle, China; Thomas Jackson, China; Morris Johnson, China; William W. Kerr, China; Philip Kagrice, China; George W. Kesler, China; William H. Knipper, China; Joseph Laccerte, China; John H. Lytle, China; Joshua E. Lahman, China; Mathias Marker, Ashton; James Morrissey, China; Edward O'Neal, China; George W. Pense, China; John Roach, China; Leander W. Rosecrans, China; William Rice, China; Chas. Santee, China; John G. Sartorius, China; John N. Stransner, China; Jacob C. Sunday, China; William Townsend, China; Henry M. Nance, China; James T. Willroy, China; Enoch Ward, China; Charles P. Wittman, China; David Wingert, China; John H. Wingert, China; Ralph Young, China.

Veterans: William H. Griffith, China; Cyrus Griffith, China; Benjamin R. Royce, China; Samuel S. Worley, China.

Recruits: David Buck, Ashton; Abraham F. Buck, Ashton; George D. Black, China; Franklin H. Crumb, China; George W. Cumard, Bradford; Franklin W. Durfee, China; George W. Eastwood, China; Jacob W. Foreman, Ashton; William H. Freed, China; Josephus F. Fish, China; George W. Glenn, Ashton; Henry H. Glenn, Bradford; Aurilius Gaslin, China; George Grothe, China; Herman Grothe, China; William H. Griffith, China; Cyrus Griffith, China; Otto Hamer, China; Thomas Hayes, China; Eugene Leech, China; William W. Lahman, China; Edward McGuire, China; Henry A. Nichols, China; William A. Rice, China; Benjamin R. Royce, Ashton; George W. Schmucker, Marion; George L. Stoddard, China; David N. Thompson, China; Philo C. Williams, China; James J. Wright, China; Jacob A. Warner, Bradford; Hiram M. Wilson, China; Luther D. Wood, China; William T. Bullis, Dixon, who was transferred from 104th.

Company D: Truman L. Pratt, Capt., Dixon; William S. Wood, Capt., Dixon; Simon B. Dexter, Capt., Amboy; Charles

Eccles, Capt., Palmyra; Francis Forsythe, 1st Lieut., Dixon; Henry A. Jeffs or Julffs, 1st Lieut., China; Spencer Conn, 2d Lieut., Wyoming.

Sergeants: Thomas D. Lake, Lee Center; Daniel C. Young, Wyoming.

Corporals: Robert J. Hunt, Wyoming; Henry D. Wood, Palmyra; Anson E. Thummel, Palmyra; Henry E. Fuller, Dixon; Samuel I. Tussey, Sublette; John D. Dole, Wyoming.

Musicians: Melzar F. Barnes, Lee Center; Henry M. Barnes, Lee Center.

Wagoner: Morris Johnson, Sublette.

Privates: John Albers, Palmyra; Eugene Brewer, Wyoming; John H. Brinham, Dixon; George S. Burdick, Nachusa; William R. Burdick, Nachusa; Jerome Backus, Wyoming; Oliver P. Barber, Wyoming; Joseph P. Brewer, Bradford; Henry C. Case, Wyoming; Philatus B. Carver, Dixon; James P. Chapman, Wyoming; Mordecai T. Childs, Nelson; John W. Crawford, Dixon; Josiah J. Deck, Palmyra, David H. Dorn, Brooklyn; George P. Ehrman, Dixon; Wellington Eaton, Wyoming; Charles N. (or F.) Eaton, Wyoming; John C. Forbes, Sublette; Henry Frerichs, Dixon; Lewis Fenstermacher, Hamilton; Frederick S. Frisbee, Lee Center; James Grogan, Dixon; Patrick J. Hall, Palmyra; George H. Hummerston, Dixon; Charles W. Hunt, Wyoming; John L. Henrick, Wyoming; Joseph Healion, Dixon; Charles G. Jewett, Sublette; Charles S. Johnson, Sublette; Michael Kileen, Dixon; Fred F. Klosterman, Palmyra; Cornelius Kelleher, Wyoming; Orlando Kidney, Wyoming; William J. Lohr, Dixon; Morris Furman, Dixon; John McBride, Dixon; Alfred T. Mead, Palmyra; George D. Mead, Lee Center; Henry Montgomery, Dixon; Henry Prahm, Amboy; Gould H. Perry, Dixon; Henry Peeks, Dixon; George W. Pierce, Dixon; Abram Swartwout, Sublette; William Saylor, Dixon; Albert Slater, Palmyra; John Stull, Dixon; Alvah F. (or T.) Stewart, Palmyra; Solomon Stewart, Amboy; Joseph Shelhamer, Dixon; Jacob Semmiff, Dixon; James Talbot, Wyoming; Thomas Twohey, Dixon; George Williamson, Dixon; David R. Wolverton, Dixon; William Wendle, Dixon; Charles A. Wetherbee, Lee Center; Abner R. Wills, Wyoming; Ira Wales, Wyoming.

Veterans: Melzer E. Barnes, Dixon; Henry F. Fuller, Dixon; Robert J. Hunt, Dixon; Henry A. Jeff, Dixon; Morris Johnson, Dixon; Byron K. May, Dixon; Samuel I. Tussey, Dixon; Henry D. Wood, Dixon.



Recruits: Daniel W. Balles, China; Bryan Brogan, Dixon; Patrick R. Burke, Dixon; John B. Claassen, Palmyra; Columbus W. Crumb, China; Hiram Cooper, Dixon; Patrick Drew, Dixon; Thomas Drew, Dixon; Marmaduke Eckles, Palmyra; Frederick E. Ellinger, Dixon; Thomas Eakles, Palmyra; Clifford Eastwood, Palmyra; Jacob Eggert, Dixon; Orris D. Eaton, Wyoming; Dominick Ford, Dixon; Adelbert A. Fletcher, Dixon; Frederick Fellows, Hamilton; Thomas Gaffany, Dixon; Michael Gaffany, Dixon; Francis E. Gates, Wyoming; Ayres Gable, Wyoming; Mott N. Goble, Wyoming; Robert C. Gaston, Palmyra; Lewis Gleichman, Palmyra; Ira B. Hutton, Palmyra; James N. Henrie, Palmyra; William Haire, Palmyra; Alvan S. Johnson, Wyoming; Charles W. Jackson, Palmyra; Michael J. Killen, Lee Center; Eleazer J. Kelly, Amboy; Dedrich Kruger, Palmyra; Truman H. Kruger, Wyoming; James Landers, Amboy; James Lonergan, Dixon; Henry Lawson, Wyoming; George Lamkin, Palmyra; Charles W. Morgan, Palmyra; George McBride, Dixon; John Mosgrove, Dixon; Edmund Murphy, Dixon; Thomas McNally, Dixon; Lamburtis W. Marsh, Sublette; Sidney L. Morgan, Palmyra; Sidney S. Newell, Dixon; William R. Putnam, Wyoming; Wyckham C. Reynolds, Palmyra; Daniel E. Robbins, Dixon; James H. Robinson, Amboy; Gust H. L. Sartorius, Palmyra; Nelson F. Swartwout, Sublette; Samuel Shaw, Palmyra; Peter V. Shell, Marion; William H. Schock, Palmyra; Emanuel Schiek, Palmyra; Josiah O. Tiffets, Wyoming; Francis J. Tilton, Palmyra; Cornelius Vandervoort, Brooklyn; George W. Witte, Dixon; Abner R. Wells, Lee Center.

Company E: In the Thirty-fourth, many enlistments were from Marion. They are especially numerous in this company. Before inserting them, I read them over carefully. I did not recognize one name. Nevertheless, as this Marion has been thrown so closely to Lee, Ogle and Whiteside, I cannot see how it can be the Marion in southern Illinois. The enlistments from this Marion accordingly are placed herein. If they are not in Lee county's quota, no harm will be done. If they are, it would be a grave omission to leave them out: Henry Wild, Capt., Marion; Samuel L. Patrick, Capt., Marion; Edward H. Wild, 1st Lieut., Marion; Hallis Hall, 2d Lieut., Marion.

Sergeants: Julius I. Comstock, Marion; Daniel W. Wild, Marion.

Corporals: James P. Stewart, Marion; George Zink, Marion; George R. Dewey, Marion.



Privates: Alpheus S. Blakeley, Marion; DeWayne K. Calkins, Marion; Henry D. Crouch, Marion; William Devine, Marion; John Hartnett, Marion; Louis H. Lee, Marion; James Millis, Marion; Charles L. Northrup, Marion; John Zink, Marion.

Recruits: John Dolan, Marion; George W. Green, Marion.

Company F: Arnold L. Harrington, Sergt., Wyoming; William L. Bronson, Corp., Dixon.

Privates: Noah B. Bradbury, Dixon; George L. Richardson, Dixon; Clinton D. Taylor, Dixon.

Recruits: Asa D. Leidy, Dixon; Mathias S. Price, China.

Company H: William Kroener, Recruit, Dixon.

Company I: John D. Hostetter, Recruit, Dixon.

Unassigned Recruits: John C. Bond, Dixon.

#### THIRTY-SIXTH REGIMENT

Company D: James H. Foote, transf. from 88th, Dixon; John McCaig, Marion (?); Marcellus Shepherd, Lee county, unassigned.

#### THIRTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT

Company D: John Fane, Musician, Lee county, (Dixon?).

#### THIRTY-NINTH REGIMENT

Samuel S. Linton, Major, Willow Creek.

Company D: Jonathan F. Linton, 1st Lieut, Willow Creek; Ezra E. Johnson, Corp., Willow Creek.

Privates: Edwin Atkinson, Willow Creek; Thomas Armstrong, Willow Creek; Frank Guyott, Willow Creek; John Stellyer, Willow Creek; Jacob Swab, Willow Creek; Nelson Walls, Veteran, Willow Creek; Ira W. Green, Recruit, Marion.

Company G: Andrew J. Lewis, Amboy; John Lewis, Amboy; William H. Root, Amboy (unassigned recruit).

#### FORTY-SECOND REGIMENT

Company C: Hiram McCoy, a substitute, Dixon.

Company H: Elisha Wilcox, Amboy (on another page his P. O. is marked Naperville).

## FORTY-FIFTH REGIMENT

Company B: Kingsley E. Olds, 1st Lieut., Dixon.

Company C: Wm. W. Weinbrenner, Dixon.

Company D: John R. Dawson, 1st Lieut., Dixon; Edwin O. Hammond, 2d Lieut., Dixon; Samuel T. Clark, Dixon.

Company H: Thomas M. Wallace, Dixon.

## FORTY-SIXTH REGIMENT

Henry H. Woodbury, Adjutant, Dixon.

Company C: Nicholas Liter, Alto (?).

Company D: William F. Wilbur, Capt., Sublette; Juel L. Coe, 1st Lieut., Amboy; Henry H. Woodbury, 2d Lieut., Amboy.

Sergeants: Everett Rollins, Amboy; Uriah J. Terry, Wyoming; Hial Pike, Amboy.

Corporals: John Trowbridge, Sublette; James W. Holmes, Amboy; George W. Manning, Hamilton.

Musicians: Nathan Sanborn, Dixon; Walter N. Sanborn, Dixon.

Privates: Abel Angier, Sublette; Leander Angier, Sublette; George Ash, Amboy; John Burrington, Amboy; David S. Bixby, Amboy; Gilbert L. Butterfield, Wyoming; Roderick D. Bird, Amboy; George S. Barnard, Amboy; Eben C. Bradbury, Dixon; Freeman F. Crocker, Wyoming; Daniel Cromwell, Dixon; Daniel Clark, Wyoming; Thomas S. Crane, Hamilton; John Dexter, Amboy; John W. Dow, Wyoming; Fillm'n Fenstemaker, Sublette; Harlan D. Forbes, Sublette; Aspasia Graves, Amboy; Jacob L. Holmes, Amboy; Jerome R. Holton, Sublette; Lorenzo Kipley, Hamilton; Leonard Lovering, Sublette; Henry Lovering, Sublette; Benjamin W. Morse, Amboy; John Madden, Amboy; James Myers, Amboy; James Mely, Wyoming; John McCarty, Amboy; Henry Meyer, May; Myron V. Merchant (?); Jacob W. Mulligan (?); Samuel Millard, Amboy; Jacob Post, Amboy; Nelson Parsons, Hamilton; Clark P. Roff, Amboy; John Smith, Amboy; Burrell Stevens, Hamilton; Oliver Sanson, Amboy; John E. Whiting, Amboy; Charles L. Whiting, Amboy; Philander H. Woolsey, Amboy.

Recruits: Oscar Hoxie, Dixon; James Lahey, Dixon.

Company E: F. A. Andrus, Ashton; Jesse G. Hodges, Ashton; Risdon Moxley, Ashton; William McBane, Ashton; James P. Smith, Ashton; James R. Shultz, Ashton; Matthias Simmons, Ashton.

Recruits: Charles E. Austin, Amboy; John Burke, Amboy; Christian Plank, Amboy; Jesse R. Waddell, Amboy, transf. from 11th; David B. Wilson, Amboy.

Company H: John Stevens, Capt., Dixon; made Judge Advocate and Major; killed at Shiloh, April 6, 1862; Thomas A. Pieronet, Amboy.

John M. Murphy, Charles C. Mason, Sergeants; Abraham Fuller, Corp, Dixon; Isaac Little, Musician, Dixon.

Privates: William J. Carpenter, Dixon; Demming Carpenter, Dixon; John Coyle, Dixon; Frederick Ceames, Lee Center; Franklin Case (?); Jacob T. Clark (?); James Dornan, Dixon; William Dunphy, Dixon; Jerome Emerson, Ashton; John Fitzgerald, Dixon; John Gorman, Dixon; Burton M. Horton (?); Charles H. Keniston, Ashton; Henry G. Miller, Amboy; Henry McCarroll, Ashton; George H. Perry, Dixon; Alexander Patterson, Melugin's Grove. This man Patterson is put down in the Adj. Gen. report as a deserter. William Tracy, Dixon; Stanton C. Tracy, China.

Recruits: Woodbury Akins, Marion; Herman Atenham, Ashton; Dennis Collins, Dixon; Thomas Commisky, Alto; Orin A. Corbin, Alto; James J. Dolan, Dixon; Wm. Hochstetter, Ashton; Oakley B. Herrick, Alto; John Kiernan, Ashton; Murthy Murphy, Dixon; Thomas McBride, Dixon; Martin Roach, China; George H. Saunders, Alto; John Tileher, Ashton.

Recruits: Roderick D. Bird, Amboy; George S. Barnard, Amboy; Eben C. Bradbury, Dixon; Orin Coulton, Lee Center; Aspacia Graves, Amboy; James W. Holmes, Amboy; Wilford McCain, Dixon; James Myers, Amboy; John Madden, Amboy; Martin L. Ritz, Amboy; Horace P. Sawyer, Lee Center; Oliver Sanson, Amboy.

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Recruits transferred from the 11th Infantry. Wilson J. Fisher, Amboy; Thomas B. Fisher, Amboy; Charles H. Gordonier, Amboy; August Leusch, Amboy; William E. Moree, Amboy; Arthur Marigold, Amboy; Ephraim Sloan, Amboy; Patrick Shuly, Amboy; Kinney Wood, Ashton; George H. Wood, Ashton; Everett E. Chase, Amboy; George F. Morgan, Amboy; John A. Pieronnet, Amboy; Henry E. Wiley, Amboy.

Company I: Hezekiah H. Bullock, Capt., Dixon.

Privates: Curtis Cannon, Amboy; James E. Lawton, Dixon; Newell Pratt, Dixon; Edward A. Snyder, Dixon.

Veterans: Daniel Cromwell, Dixon; Thomas S. Crane, Hamilton; John W. Dow, Wyoming; Harlan D. Forbes, Sublette; Jerome R. Holton, Sublette; Lorenzo Kipley, Hamilton; Benjamin W. Morse, Amboy; Jacob Post, Amboy; Philander H. Woolsey, Amboy.

Company K: Cornelius Heings, Palmyra; Jacob Pfordt, Lee (?).

#### FIFTY-FIRST REGIMENT

Company D: Oliver Edmunds, Brooklyn.

#### FIFTY-SECOND REGIMENT

Company B: Frederick Butz, Maytown; Matthew Bort, Sublette; Andrew Curtis, Dixon; Christian Koerner, Sublette; Conrad Schwab, Sublette; Philip Schwab, Sublette.

Company H: Julius A. Hanover, Amboy; Jacob Hoag, Amboy. (Last named doubtful.)

Company I: Charles H. Hatch, Dixon; Charles H. Jackson, Dixon.

#### FIFTY-THIRD REGIMENT

William W. Welch, Surgeon, Amboy.

Company D: Harvey Hallock, Corp., Wyoming; Alonzo E. Avery, Paw Paw, but possibly the DeKalb county Paw Paw; William H. Boardman, Wyoming; Orris Chapman, Paw Paw (?); Clark Eaton, Paw Paw (?); William Firkins, Paw Paw (?); John Firkins, Paw Paw (?); Orson Haskell, Paw Paw (?); Frank P. Hallock, Wyoming; Charles W. Stow, Wyoming. These Paw Paw names are familiar to both the village of Paw Paw in Wyoming township and to the township of Paw Paw contiguous in DeKalb county. I am compelled, therefore, to include them all.

#### FIFTY-FIFTH REGIMENT

Company I: Joseph W. Crocker, Willow Creek; Charles A. Crocker, Wyoming; Dennis Holdren (or Holden), Brooklyn; George Blahs, Lee county; George W. Crocker, Willow Creek (or Yellow Creek); Henry Kepper, Lee county; William A. Lynn, Sublette; Henry Smith, Sublette. In a history of the 55th regi-



ment written by a committee of the regiment, Joseph W. Crocker is reported as deserting while on sick furlough.

## FIFTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT

Company C: John William Guthrie, Willow Creek.

## FIFTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT

Company H: A. King, Dixon; Moses B. King, Dixon.

## FIFTY-NINTH REGIMENT

Company F: John Chambers, Dixon.

Company K: John M. Van Osdel, Capt., Dixon.

## SIXTY-FOURTH REGIMENT

Company D: Henry H. Dow, Dixon; John Reeves, Dixon; Robert Shannon, Dixon.

## SIXTY-FIFTH REGIMENT

Company F: Burton C. Kerr, Dixon; Levi Smith, Dixon.

Company I: Milton Curtis, Dixon; Thomas Harvey, Amboy; Charles Harvey, Amboy; Philip McNanny, Amboy; John L. Smith, Dixon; Christian Smith, Gap Grove.

## SIXTY-FIFTH CONSOLIDATED

Company C: Arthur Barrett, Dixon; James French, Dixon; William French, Dixon; John Goddard, Dixon; Nathaniel Hollingshead, Dixon; James Mularkey, Dixon; Samuel Nettleton, Dixon.

## SIXTY-FIFTH CONSOLIDATED

Company D: William H. Johnson, 1st Corp., Dixon; Daniel Mills, Dixon; Joseph E. Clifton, Dixon; August Csehierche, Dixon; Michael Musser, Dixon.

## Transferred from Ninety-second

Company G: George J. Wilcoxin, 1st Sergt., Dixon; Francis A. Free, Sergt., Dixon; Preston K. Hill, Sergt., Dixon; David W. Hassen, Sergt., Dixon; John H. Schlott, Sergt., Dixon; Aaron Rood, Corp., Dixon; Emanuel Gorgas, Corp., Dixon; Clark B. Jewell, Corp., Dixon; Anthony Gaffron, Corp., Dixon; Wm. H. Cullens, Corp., Dixon; Joseph H. Hunt, Corp., Dixon; Edward Norton, Corp., Dixon; James Allison, Dixon; Florilla Artz, Dixon; Thomas E. Austin, Dixon; Elmus Baker, Dixon; Nelson S. Bentley, Dixon; Irvin Belknap, Dixon; Wm. L. Bennett, Dixon; Elias G. Bowers, Dixon; Sample J. Clark, Dixon; Joseph E. Cooley, Dixon; David D. Culver, Dixon; Chas. Dugan, Dixon; John Davis, Dixon; Solomon Engleman, Dixon; Jacob Engleman, Dixon; Frederick Eszman, Dixon; Henry Fox, Dixon; Geo. Fox, Dixon; John J. Fowble, Dixon; Thomas Fletcher, Dixon; John Gregory, Dixon; Chas. Graham, Dixon; Aaron Garnhart, Dixon; Daniel Galusba, Dixon; John H. Heleme, Dixon; John Hoffman, Dixon; Josiah D. Hull, Dixon; Francis D. Holford, Dixon; Edward Hackett, Dixon; Wellington Jenkins, Dixon; Alvah B. Knowlton, Dixon; John C. Killmore, Dixon; Wm. A. Kimble, Dixon; Richard H. Lee, Dixon; Orin B. Lawrence, Dixon; William B. Lacy, Dixon; John Mowry, Dixon; Wellington Morris, Dixon; Thomas McNeal, Dixon; Thomas Mitchell, Dixon; Ethan McCord, Dixon; Van Buren Merchant, Dixon; William McCoy, Dixon; Maurice P. Osborne, Dixon; Abram Pittman, Dixon; Benjamin Pittman, Dixon; Daniel Pittman, Dixon; David Pittman, Dixon; Samuel E. Parsons, Dixon; Jesse Pennypacker, Dixon; Abbott Reese, Dixon; William H. S. Reese, Dixon; Edward Rogers, Dixon; Henry Remley, Dixon; John Royce, Dixon; Simeon Reynolds, Dixon; James L. Reed, Dixon; Alexander Rhodes, Dixon; Henry A. Smith, Dixon; Robert A. Sanderson, Dixon; William Shoemaker, Dixon; William W. Shilling, Dixon; James T. Smith, Dixon; Sheldon W. Shaffer, Dixon; Noah Sweet, Dixon; Eugene B. Thorpe, Dixon; Alonzo F. Tilton, Dixon; George W. Tilton, Dixon; Orin B. Tilton, Dixon; Commodore P. Tilton, Dixon; George W. Ventioner, Dixon; William P. Weinbrenner, Dixon; Francis J. Williams, Dixon; Leonard Westbrook, Dixon; James H. Wardsworth, Dixon; William E. Yonkle, Dixon; Sylvester Youker, Dixon.

## SIXTY-FIFTH REGIMENT

## Transferred from Ninety-second Illinois

Company I: William W. Stahl, 1st Sergt., Dixon; William P. Moothart, Sergt., Dixon; William Huston, Sergt., Dixon; Sidney L. Robbins, Corp., Dixon; John C. Colton, Corp., Dixon; John Westcott, Corp., Dixon; Jonathan Bingham, Corp., Dixon; Joseph Bundage, Corp., Dixon; Andrew Cutzer, Corp., Dixon; Duncan M. Feeley, Corp., Dixon; Wellington J. Demore, Corp., Dixon; Alexis Allbin, Dixon; Absalom Armagost, Dixon; Silas Andrews, Dixon; Enoch Atwood, Dixon; Andrew Atwood, Dixon; Patton H. Atwood, Dixon; Samuel Arty, Dixon; Nelson Beardsley, Dixon; Henry Beck, Dixon; Abraham Benedict, Dixon; David M. Ballert, Dixon; Jacob Ballert, Dixon; Henry Bryman, Dixon; Chas. Buchanan, Dixon; Hiram Bunker, Dixon; Wilson M. Burbridge, Dixon; William H. Butler, Dixon; Martin J. Bennett, Dixon; Wentle Bartholomew, Dixon; Julius Bisbee, Dixon; Eugene S. Churchill, Dixon; Robert Cronkelton, Dixon; Thomas Crany, Dixon; Franklin L. Crouch, Dixon; Harrison Coddington, Dixon; James H. Cox, Dixon; John R. Chambers, Dixon; Lewis Foy, Dixon; Edwin Fox, Dixon; Henry H. Gates, Dixon; Christian Glany, Dixon; Peter L. Gemmill, Dixon; George H. Gage, Dixon; Samuel Harshbarger, Dixon; Patrick Hart, Dixon; William H. Haggert, Dixon; Sanford E. Hays, Dixon; Joseph Henderson, Dixon; John Harrington, Dixon; Lewis Johnson, Dixon; William Knott, Dixon; Alfred L. Kemp, Dixon; Robert Lyle, Dixon; George Lawyer, Dixon; John S. Laney, Dixon; Henry W. Lewis, Dixon; Baton H. Lewis, Dixon; Thomas McCarthy, Dixon; Frederick McMillan, Dixon; John G. Matthews, Dixon; Samuel R. Matthews, Dixon; Malcolm McEathron, Dixon; Jacob McCommond, Dixon; Jared McCallister, Dixon; Richard Mason, Dixon; Richard Newman, Dixon; Allen Oakes, Dixon; Luther R. Odell, Dixon; Wm. A. Odell, Dixon; Luther Pickard, Dixon; John Palmer, Dixon; Samuel Portner, Dixon; Henry R. Playford, Dixon; Pasley A. Phillips, Dixon; John R. Pagies, Dixon; George Pratt, Dixon; Lafayette Richardson, Dixon; Isaac Royer, Dixon; George W. Rea, Dixon; Charles Rodeka, Dixon; Henry W. Stock, Dixon; Edward Suffraine, Dixon; Martin V. Shoop, Dixon; Arthur L. Skells, Dixon; George W. Sindlinger, Dixon; William W. Tennis, Dixon; Chauncey L. Tracey, Dixon; Alfred B. Taylor,

Dixon; William L. Taylor, Dixon; Milo L. Way, Dixon; Andrew Wheeler, Dixon; Charles White, Dixon; John H. Walkup, Dixon.

## SIXTY-SIXTH REGIMENT

Company C: Charles C. Austin.

## SIXTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT

Company C: Asa Headen, Paw Paw.

## SIXTY-NINTH REGIMENT

Company H: James W. Reardon, Capt., Dixon; Eli B. Baker, 1st Lieut., Dixon; Edwin F. Bennett, 2d Lieut., Dixon; John D. Heaton, 1st Sergt., Dixon; L. Michael Keyms, Sergt., Dixon; Edward Perkins, Sergt., Dixon; Philo C. Williams, Sergt., Franklin Grove; George D. Black, Sergt., Franklin Grove; Germanus Knepper, Corp., Dixon; George Johnson, Corp., Franklin Grove; Hannibal Keen, Corp., Franklin Grove; John Little, Corp., Dixon; Leon H. Moore, Corp., Dixon; Uriah Stroup, Corp., Dixon; Jerome A. Martin, Corp., Dixon; Joseph Ledger, Corp., Dixon; A. Dana Castle, Musician, Dixon; Wakefield Ayres, Musician, Dixon; Amanzel D. Burr, Dixon; Joseph Bundage, Nachusa; William Black, Dixon; James Burkey, Franklin Grove; Joseph Cartright, Dixon; James F. Dearth, Dixon; Henry J. Heeren, Dixon; James Hatch, Dixon; John W. Hutchings, Franklin Grove; Edwin W. Hine, Dixon; Thomas Harvey, Amboy; Julius Keyes, Dixon; Daniel Kegarice, Franklin Grove; Charles Kesenachre, Franklin Grove; Spencer Kimball, Dixon; Charles B. Knudson, Dixon; Charles McCristal, Dixon; William Murphy, Dixon; William E. Meyers, Dixon; Patrick McNertney, Dixon; William McVay, Dixon; Stephen Oakley, Dixon; Barton O'Neal, Dixon; James Pankhurst, Dixon; George Pate, Dixon; John H. Richardson, Dixon; Owen Smith, Dixon; Alunson Smith, Dixon; Mark A. Spafford, Dixon; John Still, Lee Center; Albion Still, Lee Center; Nathan F. Siples, Dixon; James D. Sylce, Dixon; Herbert Vande-  
burgh, Dixon; Randall Williams, Ashton; Charles Zales, Dixon; Charles W. Morgan, Dixon; Daniel Massey, Dixon; Solomon A. Vroomder, Dixon.

Company K: Wilbur H. Tousley, 1st Lieut., Amboy; Harrison T. Pratt, Sergt., Amboy; Emerson W. Patten, Sergt., Amboy;



Lewis J. Waterbury, Corp., Lee Center; James A. Martin, Corp., Amboy; John F. Doane, Amboy; Charles B. Fox, Amboy; George Greenhow, Amboy; William H. Heegaard, Sublette; James A. McGarry, Amboy; Barney McCoy, Amboy; George W. Post, Amboy; Jasper N. Pettierew, Amboy; John L. Skinner, Jr., Amboy; Fayette D. Strickland, Amboy; Nelson F. Strickland, Amboy; Samuel A. Simpson, Amboy; Oscar Spangler, Amboy; Charles E. Thompson, Amboy; Lewis A. Trowbridge, Franklin Grove.

## SEVENTY-SECOND REGIMENT

Company D: Calvin Gifford, Dixon.

Company G: John Clink, Sublette; Evan C. Bradbury, Franklin Grove; Alonzo Johnson, Brooklyn.

## SEVENTY-FIFTH REGIMENT

George Ryon, Colonel, Wyoming; James A. Watson, Major, Dixon; Jerome W. Hollenbeck, Adjutant, Dixon; Orlando L. French, Adjutant, Dixon; John E. Remington, Quartermaster, Dixon; James Reed, Quartermaster, Dixon; George W. Phillips, Surgeon, Dixon; John C. Corbus, Assistant, Brooklyn; Silas D. Frost, Sergt. Major, Lee Center; William Pankhurst, Commis. Sergt., Dixon.

Company A: After the promotion of James A. Watson from Captain to Major: Ezekiel Giles, Captain, Dixon; William Parker, Jr., Captain, Dixon; Frederick O. Headly, 1st Lieut., Dixon; Alfred K. Buckaloo, 2d Lieut., Dixon; Frederick A. Headly, 1st Sergt., Dixon.

Sergeants: Horace Judson, Dixon; William J. Cogswell, Dixon; Joseph A. Hill, Dixon.

Corporals: John Williamson, Dixon; Louis H. Burket, Dixon; Edwin J. Jones, Dixon; Isaac E. Barr, Dixon; George M. Putnam, Dixon; Ezra Cooper, Dixon; David H. Wagner, Dixon; Anthony Zimmer, Dixon.

Musicians: James L. Backus, Dixon; David Freeman, Dixon.

Privates: Samuel Allen, Dixon; Charles E. Anderson, Dixon; John Beal, Jr., Dixon; Israel A. Benner, China; James E. Bingham, Dixon; John H. Burgher, Palmyra; Josiah Bradbury, China; Joseph R. Courtwright, Dixon; John Catavaugh, Dixon; Fred A. Clark, Dixon; John Clark, Dixon; Josiah Cook, Nelson;

John N. Cookson, Dixon; Alonzo Cogswell, Nelson; Thomas S. Coffey, Palmyra; Adoniram J. Collins, Dixon; Melchisidech C. Crego, Dixon; Joseph Cromwell, Dixon; Charles Cropsey, Dixon; Perry Dearth, Nelson; Calvin DeFrain, Dixon; Alexander Done, Dixon; William F. Eyer, Palmyra; Alonzo Everts, Dixon; William Faust, Dixon; Frank Ford, Dixon; William J. Gardner, Dixon; Hiram Grimes, Dixon; Charles Haupt, Dixon; John W. Holtzman, Dixon; Edmund Hoyle, Dixon; David Howard, China; Warren A. Howland, Dixon; Michael Keagen, Palmyra; Philip Kuhn, Dixon; Thomas L. Knight, Dixon; John Lindsay, Dixon; John Linehan, Dixon; Mathias E. Lievan, Dixon; Michael McDonald, Dixon; George H. McIntyre, Dixon; David Maloy, Dixon; John I. Moore, Dixon; Charles A. Morrell, Dixon; Nicholas Mossholder, Dixon; Charles H. Mostotler, Dixon; William C. Moseley, Dixon; Abraham Myers, Dixon; George G. Messer, Dixon; Proctor D. Oakes, Dixon; William S. Peacock, Dixon; Gideon Purbaugh, Dixon; Enoch Pinkerton, Dixon; John R. Richards, Dixon; Alexander Rosenbaum, Dixon; Alson H. Remington, Dixon; Thomas Roberts, Dixon; Lawrence Rose, Dixon; William H. Stewart, Dixon; Cyrus Schmucker, Dixon; William Stackpole, Dixon; William Vredenburg, Dixon; Cornelius Vroom, Nelson; Josephus A. Watson, Dixon; Christopher Wheeler, Palmyra; Thomas Wood, Dixon; Stephen R. Wilshaus, Dixon; James Garrow, Dixon.

Recruits: Alfred A. Beede, Palmyra; Joseph B. Crawford, Dixon; Joseph Gruver, Dixon; Emery R. Morrell, Dixon.

Company D: William D. Smith, Harmon; Nelson W. Darrow, Sublette.

Company E: William S. Frost, Captain, Lee Center; James H. Blodgett, Captain, Amboy; Franklin H. Eells, 1st Lieut., Sublette; James Dexter, 1st Lieut, Sublette; Henry Hill, 2d Lieut., Lee Center; George A. Houk, 2d Lieut., Sublette.

Sergeants: James L. Barker, Lee Center; Cyrus W. Sawyer, Lee Center; Harlow S. Chadwick, Lee Center.

Corporals: George W. Wheat, Lee Center; Oliver A. Wood, Sublette; Harrison Hale, Lee Center; Charles Stewart, Sublette; Aquilla S. Christopher, Lee Center; William H. Sawyer, Lee Center; John Stiltz, Sublette; John Snover, Lee Center; Milton E. Barker, Musician, Lee Center.

Privates: John J. Aiken, Lee Center; William H. Ackland, Melugin's Grove; William Beaton, Sublette; Ole C. Blovorp, Lee Center; George H. Barker, Ashton; Patrick Comfort, Sublette;

John J. Cook, Sublette; Samuel R. Cook, Sublette; Alexander D. Crawford, Sublette; Dennis Carroll, Sublette; Eugene A. Chadwick, Lee Center; Jonathan F. Colwell, Lee Center; August Digner, Sublette; William Dexter, Sublette; Thomas Dupay, Sublette; Jacob Dastart, Sublette; F. George Fessenden, Sublette; Edward Fessenden, Sublette; Elias Fisher, Sublette; Silas D. Frost, Lee Center; Leonard Gradi, Sublette; Alvarus M. Gage, Lee Center; John Grunett, Lee Center; John C. Gray, Lee Center; Charles C. Gonnerman, Lee Center; John Gruber, Lee Center; Charles D. Hubbard, Sublette; William Hammon, Sublette; Joseph J. Hodges, Sublette; George A. Honk, Sublette; Russell D. Hopkins, Lee Center; Lyman Jewell, Nachusa; Norman Jewett, Sublette; Stewart Johnson, Lee Center; George Kramer, Sublette; David B. Long, Sublette; Alexander Long, Sublette; William B. Lucas, Sublette; William H. Linn, Lee Center; John W. McLain, Sublette; Charles McLain, Sublette; Peter R. Mittan, Melugin's Grove; Samuel McCall, Sublette; David D. Myers, Sublette; Christopher Maes, Sublette; John Morrill, Jr., Sublette; Norvil F. Montgomery, Sublette; William McLaughlin, Sublette; Edward McKune, Sublette; Thomas Nagle, Sublette; John Noel, Sublette; Sylvester S. Nash, Lee Center; John Mass, Lee Center; James W. Pankhurst, Lee Center; William P. Packard, Sublette; Myron J. Peterson, Sublette; Edward J. Post, Sublette; Joshua Rogers, Sublette; Lewis B. Rex, Sublette; Henry A. Robinson, Lee Center; Thaddeus Spafford, Lee Center; Edward S. Smith, Sublette; Martin S. Stanard, Sublette; Austin W. Stanard, Sublette; Walter Scott, Sublette; Frederick Schleich, Sublette; Franklin Tracey, Sublette; Andrew J. Taylor, Sublette; John W. Tennant, Lee Center; James Wolcott, Lee Center; Charles E. White, Sublette; Isaac Yocum, Sublette; Samuel J. Yeast, Sublette.

Recruits: Carl Bach, Sublette; Ira Dexter, May; Albert Hubbard, Sublette; Charles H. Ingalls, Lee Center; Joseph Jacquot, Lee Center; Henry Johnson, China; Murray Johnson, Amboy; Oscar R. Morse, Sublette; Henry Nichols, Hamilton; Elijah R. Odell, Lee Center; Charles E. Stanard, Sublette; George W. Scott, Sublette; Chauncey M. Sawyer, Lee Center; Henry Wolf, Sublette.

Company F: Addison S. Vorrey, Capt., Amboy; James McCord, Capt., Amboy.

First Lieutenants: James Tourtillott, May; James D. Place, Amboy.

Second Lieutenants: Dennis Hannifin, Amboy; Edwin E. Faunce, Amboy.

Sergeants: William H. Stewart, May; Benjamin F. Warren, China; Shepherd Reynolds, Amboy; John Dolan, Amboy.

Corporals: William Armstrong, Amboy; James McCord, Amboy; Elisha T. Tourtillott, Sublette; Charles R. Gregory, China; Emanuel Vanorsdale, China; George W. Niver, China; D. Brazilla Walker, Sublette; James Jordan, Dixon.

Privates: Alonzo E. Allen, China; D. Franklin Brown, Amboy; William Brown, May; Daniel Barnes, May; Joseph Carr, Amboy; Ira Corby, Amboy; Willis Carmon, Amboy; James Campbell, Amboy; Benjamin F. Cannon, Amboy; John Carter, Jr., Amboy; Edward Crimmins, Sublette; Hugh Carlisle, Amboy; Henry Dean, Brooklyn; William Doran, Sublette; Patrick Dailey, Dixon; Dennis Finn, May; Charles Griswold, Ashton; John E. Harmon, Amboy; Patrick Holland, Amboy; William Hayword, Amboy; Asa M. Harvey, China; Paul Honan, Amboy; William F. Hurst, Brooklyn; Adelbert Jacobs, Amboy; John Kelley, Amboy; Wesley F. Loucks, Brooklyn; George R. Loucks, Brooklyn; Charles Lambert, Amboy; Thomas McEntager, Amboy; Johannas Motz, Amboy; Cornelius McFadden, Lee Center; Philip McCormick, May; Arthur McGinnis, Amboy; John Murphy, Amboy; George F. Nelles, Brooklyn; Aaron O. Neal, China; James O'Gair, Amboy; Jeremiah Quinn, Amboy; Hezekiah Reed, Amboy; John Ryan, Dixon; Samuel Stewart, Dixon; James H. Stewart, May; Daniel Sheehan, May; Lyman Webster, May (?); George Williams, May (?); Ernest Wernick, Dixon; John Wink, Dixon.

Recruits: James B. Ayres, Dixon; David S. Bixby, Amboy; Owen Dowdel, Amboy; Edwin E. France, Amboy; Thomas Haley, Amboy; George W. Hicks, Amboy; James McCormick, Amboy; Samuel Share, Amboy; John M. Spencer, Amboy; John Smith, Amboy; Orin Withey, Amboy.

Company G: Joseph Williams, Capt., China; Robert L. Irwin, Capt., China; Daniel E. Spafford, 2d Lieut., China.

Sergeants: Manley E. Brown, China; Charles Twambly, China.

Corporals: Cornelius Brinkerhoff, China; George W. Hittle, China; Joseph Weinbrenner, China; Jonathan Schrock, Ashton; Walter Gilbert, Ashton; William Schultz, China; James Dysart, China.

Privates: Samuel Bender, China; John Berneter, China; George Cable, China; George Chamberlain, China; Daniel Cham-



berlain, China; William W. Clark, Ashton; Jeremiah Christman, China; Clayton Chronister, China; Wallace Eastwood, China; Eben Fish, China; John H. Feaster, China; Peter Garrison, China; William Girton, China; John W. N. Garrison, China; William J. Harvey, China; Samuel H. Hillery, Bradford; Addison A. Heckert, Ashton; David F. Hunter, China; Cornelius Komans, China; John C. Kaiser, China; Rufus Kessler, China; Jubal Keene, China; Alexander Long, China; Bryson Leonard, Ashton; Elbert Mason, Dixon; Armstrong McNeal, China; Joseph Mersalieu, China; Noah N. Nay, China; George W. Pense, China; Charles Powers, China; Eugene Sullivan, China; James Sturdevant, Bradford; Daniel Spafford, China; Samuel Stratton (or Statton), Ashton; Irwin Thomas, China; Andrew Timothy, China; Amos Weaver, China; John W. Wingert, China; John H. Warner, Bradford; Oswald Wetzel, Bradford; Ruggles Wood, Ashton; William Watson, China; Paul G. Wetzel, China; Isaac Wesler, China; Lyman Webster, China.

Recruits: William E. Brubaker, China; Henry A. Black, China; William Casterline, China; Charles Fairchilds, Bradford; Jacob George, Ashton; Benjamin S. Hunter, Ashton; Adamon Keene, Ashton; Joseph A. Miller, Amboy; Hiram Pense, China; Charles W. Reed, Brooklyn; Peter Saner, China; Irwin W. Thomas, China; Charles D. Timothy, China; Alfred H. Gothers, Dixon.

Company H: Alfred Cantelo, Sergt., Ashton; Samuel M. Tracey, Sergt., Ashton; Joseph Boyer, Corporal, Nelson; John V. Blaney, Ashton; Edward Bates, Ashton; Gideon Boyer, Dixon; Newton Brown, Dixon; Richard Chappell, Dixon; Elijah Douglas, Ashton; Wm. R. Fiscel, China; Dennis Fletcher, Palmyra; Joseph Gruver, Dixon; Milton C. Hicks, Ashton; Michael O. Kane, Palmyra; John C. Leidy, Ashton; Uriah L. Penny, China; Richard Plum, China (?); Jefferson Seavey, Palmyra; Samuel G. Sutier, Ashton; Hugh Sheredon, China; David G. Seitz, China; Ulrich Talstead, Ashton; John Wood, Ashton.

Recruits: Chauncey Mulford (?) —; David Steele, Ashton; George Williams, Ashton.

Company I: Henry Alexander, Nelson; Frederick F. Sheldon, Nelson; Carl Bach, Sublette; Jacob Luft, Lee Center; George A. Sickles, Dixon.

Company K: David M. Roberts, Capt., Wyoming; William H. Thompson, 1st Lieut., Alto; Isaac L. Hunt, 1st Lieut., Wyoming; Berkly G. Barrett, 2d Lieut., Wyoming.

Sergeants: B. Frank Atherton, Wyoming; John S. Ryan, Wyoming; Jonathan N. Hyde, Brooklyn; James C. Howlitt, Willow Creek.

Corporals: William Nettleton, Wyoming; John A. Hunt, Wyoming; James H. Thompson, Wyoming; Walter V. Simons, Wyoming; Joshua C. Wills, Wyoming; Stephen A. Farr, Wyoming; Edward J. Rice, Wyoming; John A. Shoudy, Willow Creek.

Privates: J. DeWitt Abrams, Willow Creek; William M. Atherton, Wyoming; Zora Atherton, Wyoming; Joseph W. Agler, Wyoming; John E. Agler, Wyoming; Ira W. Baker, Wyoming; George H. Baisley, Willow Creek; William D. Baisley, Willow Creek; John L. Baisley, Willow Creek; George A. Britton, Wyoming; Eben Backus, Wyoming; Lawson Bell, Wyoming; George Beemer, Wyoming; Charles Blakeslee, Wyoming; Charles Carmer, Wyoming; William A. Conant, Wyoming; William H. Christie, Wyoming; Francis M. Cass, Alto; Menzo Coffey, Wyoming; William G. Deen, Wyoming; Frederick Dormay, Wyoming; George Dormay, Wyoming; John M. Dilts, Viola; Andrew E. Fuller, Willow Creek; Lewis M. Fairchilds, Viola; Jacob D. Fuller, Wyoming; Hiram E. Fuller, Wyoming; Orin Finley, Wyoming; Jacob Grus, Wyoming; Charles H. Golding, Wyoming; James Hall, Willow Creek; Edward Hallenbeck, Wyoming; Nathan Hallock, Wyoming; Hiram Henrie, Wyoming; Moses W. Harmon, Willow Creek; George Hallenbeck, Wyoming; Orland B. Jones, Wyoming; Joseph R. Keen, Wyoming; Benjamin S. Kipp, Wyoming; Benjamin Kidney, Wyoming; William J. Miller, Willow Creek; James Miller, Willow Creek; Sidney Merryman, Willow Creek; William Miller, Willow Creek; Joseph Miller, Willow Creek; Frederick C. Mason, Willow Creek; William McIntyre, Wyoming; Merritt Miller, Willow Creek; Henry Merwin, Wyoming; Chauncy Miller, Wyoming; Francis Mills, Willow Creek; Sampson R. McErm, Viola; Silas Pringle, Wyoming; Edward Prentice, Wyoming; J. Poindexter, Wyoming; Daniel Reams, Wyoming; Sidney B. Radley, Wyoming; Benj. F. Radley, Wyoming; David M. Roberts, Wyoming; Jacob Schmuck, Wyoming; Charles Sutton, Wyoming; Thomas P. Steele, Wyoming; Lucius B. Schuyler, Willow Creek; Orin D. Sisco, Willow Creek; Theodore Spencer, Wyoming; James E. Taylor, Viola; Oscar M. Town, Willow Creek; Jacob Turk, Wyoming; John E. Unger, Viola; Fletcher Wickery, Wyoming; John E. Woodman, Wyoming.

Recruits: John A. Barrett, Wyoming; Samuel T. Forsman, Willow Creek; Franklin Harkins, Dixon; George W. Hall, Brooklyn; Phillip Hackett, Wyoming; Chris C. Hodges, Wyoming; Chas. H. Kelley, Wyoming; Harvey A. Morris, Wyoming; Edgar A. Madison, Wyoming; Avery Merryman, Wyoming; Edward A. Steele, Wyoming; Seymour Warren, Wyoming.

Unassigned Recruits: Seth Baird, Sublette; John B. Cummings, Ashton; John A. Ellsworth, Willow Creek; Julius Lepley, Nelson; Wallace E. Rinker, Ashton; Andrew Ryan (?)—; George W. Wall, Wyoming.

## EIGHTIETH REGIMENT

Company I: Martin V. B. Hutchings, Amboy; Elijah Jones (transferred to 38th), Amboy; Joshua M. Rice (transferred to 38th), Amboy.

## EIGHTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT

Company B: Benjamin S. Hough, Corporal, Amboy.

Company G: James H. Foote, Dixon; John Hochstatter, Amboy.

In Company H, of this Regiment, six are registered from Paw Paw, but I am sure they are not from the Lee county Paw Paw

## EIGHTY-NINTH REGIMENT

Company A: Edward P. Walker, Captain (promoted from Corporal), Amboy; Alfred D. French, Amboy; Franklin H. Mil-len, Amboy; James M. Scott, Amboy.

Company C: John Chambers (transferred to 59th), Dixon; Theodore Gaston, Lee county; William H. Braman (transferred to 59th), Palmyra.

Company H: Nicholas M. Hess, Willow Creek; John B. Cummings, Ashton.

Company I (almost exclusively from Lee county): Captains, Samuel C. Comstock, Amboy; William H. Phelps, Amboy.

First Lieutenants: Charles M. Carnahan, Brooklyn; Jesse Hale, 2d Lieut., Sublette.

Sergeants: Warren O. Hawley, Amboy; William W. Carnahan, Brooklyn; Josiah B. McElyar, Brooklyn; John McKennett, Brooklyn.

Corporals: Oscar A. Comstock, Amboy; James S. Quince, Brooklyn; James C. Lewis, Amboy; John Gaffney, Brooklyn; William A. Murdock, Amboy; Daniel D. Carnahan, Brooklyn; Seymour I. Dewey, Amboy; William R. Hodge, Amboy.

Musicians: Abram W. Parker, Viola; Thurston Smith, Brooklyn. Rufus VanPool, wagoner, Amboy.

Privates: Jabez Abell, Viola; Edward W. Bull, Amboy; John Bonehight, Amboy; John Burnham, Amboy; John Bradley, Amboy; Andrew Bigley, Sublette; John W. Barrett, Brooklyn; George Butterfield, Brooklyn; Thomas C. Bradley, Viola; George H. Cook, Amboy; Andrew Cummings, Amboy; Newton Cobb, Viola; George O. Cobb, Viola; Benjamin F. Carr, Brooklyn; John Cole, Amboy; David Carnahan, Brooklyn; James Despain, Amboy; Adam Dunbar, Amboy; Samuel Ellison, Amboy; Charles H. Frost, Amboy; Joseph Guthrie, Brooklyn; James Graham, Brooklyn; Jacob Haub, Lee Center; Amos S. Horton, Sublette; Benjamin Holdren, Brooklyn; Hiram Hopkins, Brooklyn; William Holdren, Brooklyn; Robert Hall, Amboy; Densla Holton, Brooklyn; Abner Johnson, Viola; Andrew J. Johnson, Brooklyn; John H. Johnson, Amboy; Seth Knowles, Amboy; Ira S. Lee, Amboy; Joseph J. Lloyd, Brooklyn; Henry I. Lowe, Viola; Ed D. Meach, Amboy; Zachariah Melugin (killed at Kenesaw Mountain), Brooklyn; John R. Mammor, Brooklyn; Herman H. Morey, Amboy; Martin H. May, Brooklyn; DeWitt C. Marsh, Viola; Henry C. Mahannah, Amboy; Thomas Noland, Amboy; Charles Nelson, Amboy; William Oliver, Brooklyn; William R. Purrin-ter, Amboy; Sampson Pennel, Amboy; James Perry, Amboy; George L. Pittinger, Amboy; David E. Powell, Sublette; Samuel P. Parker, Brooklyn; Thomas Richey, Brooklyn; Alonzo G. Rouse, Brooklyn; Henry Sheeter, Amboy; Robert Smith, Viola; William W. Snyder, Amboy; Francis M. Shoemaker, Amboy; Philips Shultz, Viola; George Shultz, Viola; Samuel Q. Smith, Brooklyn; John Thompkins, Amboy; David Turvey, Amboy; William H. Thompson, Brooklyn; Louis Voght, Amboy; Henry Vroman, Viola; Daniel D. VanCampen, Brooklyn; Charles VanCampen, Viola; Daniel R. Vroman, Brooklyn; Charles E. Waite, Sublette; Wellington E. Leavens (recruit), Amboy; Francis E. Melugin (recruit), Amboy; Jasper Pettigrew (recruit), Amboy.

Company K: John H. Gray, Ashton; John B. Cummings, Ashton.



## NINETY-SECOND REGIMENT

Company C: John Goddard, Dixon.

Company D: Robert Cronkliton (recruit), Dixon.

Company H: Simeon Reynolds (recruit), Reynolds.

Company I: Emanuel Gorgas (recruit), Dixon; William W. Weinbrenner (recruit), Dixon.

Unassigned Recruits: Cyrus W. Brown, Dixon; Franklin Clute, Dixon.

## ONE HUNDRED-FOURTH REGIMENT

Company C: William T. Bullis (recruit transferred to 34th), Dixon.

## ONE HUNDRED-FIFTH REGIMENT

Company D: Samuel Berry (recruit), Wyoming.

Company E: Thomas J. Pierce, Wyoming.

## ONE HUNDRED-TWELFTH REGIMENT

Company K: Cornelius G. Fike, Franklin Grove; John Wahl, Franklin Grove.

## ONE HUNDRED-EIGHTEENTH REGIMENT

Company C: Francis M. Wallace (recruit), Lee county.

## ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT

Company B: Amasa B. Baker (Marked: "Deserted, Nov. 6, 1862"), Alto; Joseph Barnard, Willow Creek; Ezra A. Herrick, Alto; Rodney L. Herrick, Alto; Abner W. Loomis, Alto (Marked: "Deserted, Nov. 7, 1862"), Alto; Amos Noe, Willow Creek; William Noe, Willow Creek; Wilber Fish Plumb (Marked: "Deserted, Sept. 6, 1862"), Ashton; Hugh Patterson (Marked: "Deserted, Feb. 10, 1863"), Alto; Ira B. Whitney, Alto; John C. Whitney, Alto; Charles Bennett (recruit, transferred to 55th), Willow Creek; Byard Smith (transferred to 55th), Willow Creek; Michael Cody, Lee county.

## HISTORY OF LEE COUNTY

It will be noticed with shame that many Lee county soldiers of this company are marked on the Adjutant General's reports as deserters.

Company E: Joseph Graff, Franklin Grove; William A. Joy, Franklin Grove.

Company F: William Whorer, Alto.

## ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHTH REGIMENT

Company I: George H. Page, Dixon; Marcellus Shepherd, Sublette.

## ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SECOND REGIMENT

Company A: Andrew F. Burch, Wyoming.

## ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOURTH REGIMENT

Company D: Virgil B. Andruss, Amboy; Charles P. Allen, Amboy; Albert E. Ferre, Lee Center; Samuel F. Smith, Lee Center; Joseph S. Stephens, Franklin.

Company F: John D. Paddock, Sublette; John D. Starks, Lee Center.

Company I: Samuel E. Appleton, Amboy; Lucius Warren, Amboy.

## ONE HUNDRED FORTIETH REGIMENT

Colonel: Lorenzo H. Whitney, Dixon.

Quartermaster: George W. Bishop, Dixon.

Surgeon: George W. Phillips, Dixon.

Sergt. Major: Edward B. Warner, Dixon.

Commis. Sergt.: Charles A. Harper, Dixon.

Company D: Archibald Shaw, 1st Lieut., Palmyra; Wainright H. Parks, 2d Lieut., Palmyra; Charles Munn, Sergt., Dixon; Zina G. Ward, Corp., Dixon; Alfred A. Beede, Palmyra; Levi Castleman, Dixon; George Crafton, Palmyra; Robert J. Dryman, Palmyra; Thomas Eckles, Palmyra; Erastus H. Fisk, Palmyra; Henry R. Gratiot, Palmyra; William D. F. Holly, Palmyra; William Hackett, Palmyra; Homer H. Holt, Dixon; Theo. Hamblin, Sublette; William R. Hatfield, Dixon; Sidney L. Morgan, Palmyra; John Miller, Palmyra; Herman F. Moeller, Palmyra; Frederick Malo, Dixon; Stephen F. Oliver, Palmyra; Goodwin

Patrick, Dixon; David S. Page, Palmyra; Bruce Parks, Palmyra; John Purtleman, China; Nickham Reynolds, Palmyra; Augustus Rasmus, Dixon; Gideon W. Seavy, Palmyra; Edward Sax, Palmyra; Andrew Spickerman, Dixon; Jacob Schrock, Palmyra; Samuel Shaw, Palmyra; Julian W. Stillwell, Palmyra; Fletcher Seavey, Palmyra; Lewis G. Sartorius, Palmyra; William Shrock, Palmyra; Francis Tilton, Palmyra; Isaac Vandervoort, Palmyra; Eames Wadsworth, Dixon; William F. Ward, Lee Center; Edward C. Wetherbee, Palmyra; John Williams, Palmyra.

Company E: Ezekiel Giles, Capt., Dixon; Joseph Ball, 1st Lieut., Dixon; John L. Skinner, 2d Lieut., Amboy; George H. Northway, Amboy.

Sergeants: William J. McWay, Dixon; Richard O. Adams, Amboy; Edward Perkins, Dixon; George C. Ball, Dixon.

Corporals: Charles P. Giles, Dixon; Samuel Lyke, Nelson; Oscar H. Noble, Sublette; Julius J. Allen, Sublette; William Lamb, Amboy; Lawrence McDonald, Nachusa; Ichabod Viele, May; Joseph Netty, Dixon.

Musician: Henry McCarroll, Dixon.

Thomas J. Watson, wagoner, Dixon.

Daniel Adams, Amboy; Moses W. Barlow, Hamilton; Josiah Bates, Dixon; Charles J. Becker, Dixon; Marion Berden, Amboy; Burton Beadley, Amboy; John J. Brink, Dixon; Charles C. Burr, Dixon; Henry Burg, Sublette; Charles Chiverton, Dixon; James N. Clisbee, China; William H. Coltrin, Brooklyn; Frank Cole, Brooklyn; Levi P. Coy, Amboy; Frank M. Curtis, Lee Center; Charles Derby, Dixon; Robert A. Douglas, Dixon; Martin Doyle, Dixon; James Duffy, Dixon; John Edmonds, Amboy; Charles O. Fellows, Dixon; Warren J. Fessenden, Sublette; William Flatt, Amboy; James Glogan (or Glogaw), Dixon; Robert P. Golding, Wyoming; Thomas Gazerty, Dixon; Charles E. Hansen, Dixon; Joseph Hammon, Amboy; Samuel Hannon, Amboy; Gabriel Hallock, Amboy; Moses W. Harmon, Wyoming; Horace F. Hill, Dixon; Edgar M. Holdrin, Brooklyn; Alfred A. Hubbard, Sublette; John Hollahan, Dixon; Pliny B. King, Amboy; Anderson Kintner, Dixon; Charles Lamb, Brooklyn; Delos D. Leach, China; Mathias Leach, China; Thomas Lowe, Dixon; Cyrus O. Lyman, Bradford; William M. Long, Palestine Grove; Patrick McConnell, May; John McGrath, Dixon; Laurence Murphy, Sublette; Theo. Neis, Sublette; Hiram Pense, China; Joseph Pero, China; John Porter, Dixon; Albert W. Preston, Sublette; William N. Riley, Sublette; Samuel M. Risley, Nachusa; Joshua Schechler,

Amboy; Jacob Shay, Dixon; John P. Shew, Dixon; Edward B. Shurtleworth, Amboy; Nathan T. Smith, Dixon; Samuel G. Smith, Dixon; John S. Stearns, Amboy; Comfort Stow, Brooklyn; Spencer Tompkins, Wyoming; Adelbert L. Town, Wyoming; Frank Wright, Brooklyn; Thomas Wooley, Dixon; William W. Woodbridge, Lee Center.

Company G: John C. Barker, Amboy, 2d Lieut.; Calvin P. Lynn, Lee Center.

Company H: Charles Griswold, Corp., Ashton; George Bailey, Ashton; Joseph Cartwright, Ashton; Jeremiah Flynn, Ashton; Melvin Hardesty, Ashton; Jefferson Paddock, Ashton; Lyman Wood, Ashton.

Company I: John W. Bennett, Dixon; James Brightman, Dixon.

#### ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SIXTH REGIMENT

Company G: Henry Dampman, Dixon; Charles E. Ives, Amboy; George F. R. Keeling, Amboy.

#### ONE HUNDRED FORTY-SEVENTH REGIMENT

Delos Wilbur, Sergt. Major, Dixon.

Company C: Morris Baker, Willow Creek; Dyson Tice, Amboy.

Company G: Jerome B. Anderson, Dixon; Leander Hanson, Dixon; William H. H. Hart, Dixon; Jonathan Whipkey, Dixon; Charles Weston, Dixon.

#### ONE HUNDRED FORTY-NINTH REGIMENT

Albert A. Van Gieson, 1st Lieut., Dixon.

#### ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SECOND REGIMENT

Company F: Peter Kershaw, Corporal, Dixon; Harrison Rigg, Dixon; John Moody, Dixon; William Shaw, Dixon; William P. Vallette, Dixon.

#### ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-THIRD REGIMENT

Company D: Samuel J. Tompkins, Captain, Alto; William H. Nickey, Corporal, Alto; Morris Wurts, Corporal, Alto; Wil-



liam H. Shirk, Musician, Alto; George W. Rice, Wagoner, Alto; Daniel M. Atherton, Alto; John W. Atherton, Alto; Nathan L. Brown, China; James J. Clave, Alto; Jesse A. Chase, Alto; George W. Lord, Alto; Joseph Markley, Alto; Jonas L. Mahaffey, Bradford.

Company E: George Shafer, Sublette; Abel Williamson, Sublette.

Company K: Fred C. Ferring, Sublette; Thomas F. Tracey, Sublette.

#### ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-SIXTH REGIMENT

Company I: Alpheus H. Beemer, Bradford; John Brittain, Bradford; James Bennett, Viola; Everett Beemer, Bradford; James T. Clemans, Bradford; Benjamin F. Johnson, Reynolds; Levi Karchner, Bradford; Frank Murphy, Amboy; Sidney Williams, Reynolds.

Company K: Richard Ferguson, Corporal, Amboy; Henry C. Bardmas, Amboy; Silas Barton, Dixon; Allen Bond, Amboy; John E. Browne, Amboy; John D. Crilly, Amboy; Reuben A. Hurst, Amboy; Arden R. Ray, Amboy; George W. Richards, Amboy; John A. Sanford, Amboy; John Sullivan, Amboy; Isaac Thompson, Amboy.

#### SECOND CAVALRY

Silas Noble, Colonel, Dixon.

Jerome W. Hollenbeck, Quartermaster, Dixon.

Company A: Shepherd G. Patrick, 2d Lieut., Dixon; B. F. Berry, Corporal, Dixon; George Doud; John Gritz, Franklin; Charles O. Hodgsdon, Dixon; George Huffman, Franklin; Marion R. Sheldon, Dixon; John G. Hetzung, Dixon; Henry S. Hicks, Palmyra; Hartman Kessler, Brooklyn; Lazarus Lally, Marion; Augustus Stockman, Brooklyn; William H. Ulrich, Dixon.

#### THIRD CAVALRY

Jacob Winkfield, 1st Sergt., China; Henry Hartwig, Sergt., China; John D. Baker, Corporal, China; Michael Eckert, China; Fritz Krahl, China; Thomas Murray, China; John Stevens, Dixon.

Company H: William L. McDowell, Q. M. Sergt., China; Frank C. Brown, China; Zachary T. Chronister, China; Isaac A. Hopkins, China; John B. Stewart, China; Owen Summers, China.

## HISTORY OF LEE COUNTY

I have some doubts about the China mentioned in this regimental record.

Company K: Frederick Miller, China; Hermann Haussler, Hamilton; Jacob B. Schmuck, Willow Creek; Abraham Seites, Dixon.

Unassigned Recruits: David Brenner, Ashton; James Crisbee, China; Andrew Dondle, Hamilton (?); Francis Henry, Palmyra (?); John Hind, Hamilton (?).

## FOURTH CAVALRY

Company C: Erastus J. Mead, Wyoming; John S. Robinson, Wyoming (?).

Company E: Thomas C. James, Corporal, Reynolds; James Beache, Ashton; James M. Doty, Ashton; Allen Hicks, Ashton; David C. Schultz, Ashton.

Company F: Conrad Walters, Dixon.

Company H: Benjamin A. Jones, Wyoming; James W. Morris, Wyoming; Irwin Roberts, Wyoming.

Company I: Henry Jones, Wyoming; Sylvester D. Miller, Paw Paw (?); John Q. Adams, Wyoming; Sylvanus Brewer, Paw Paw (?); Charles E. Case, Paw Paw (?); Griffin H. Dole, Paw Paw (?); Hazard C. Eaton, Paw Paw (?); Herbert H. Hyde, Paw Paw (?); Jonathan Hampton, Wyoming; Jesse W. Morehouse, Paw Paw (?); Emmet Moore, Wyoming; Henry Martin, Paw Paw (?); Emery H. Marble, Wyoming; Henry B. Wales, Paw Paw (?).

## FOURTH CAVALRY CONSOLIDATED

Company B: John H. Mills, Paw Paw (?); John McClure, Paw Paw (?).

Company C: William H. Allen, Willow Creek; John Edgar, Willow Creek; Egbert Ruland, Paw Paw (?).

Company E: Daniel W. Brown, Paw Paw (?); Barney Tisdale, Paw Paw (?); William Wilson, Paw Paw (?).

## FIFTH CAVALRY

Company C: Francis M. Canaday, Dixon.

Company E: Charles H. Smith, Dixon.

Company G: William Slater, Dixon; Abraham Stock, Dixon.

## SIXTH CAVALRY

Company H: William A. Luty, Dixon.

## SEVENTH CAVALRY

Benj. F. Bartlett, Commis. Sergeant, Sublette; Dewitt C. Rexford, Farrier Sergeant, Sublette.

Company A: Emanuel Brierton, Dixon; Benjamin Banning, Reynolds; Henry Hader, Amboy; George W. Holly, Palmyra.

Company B: Albert Allen (recruit), Ashton; William N. Barton (recruit), Brooklyn (?); Samuel DuFrane (recruit): Sublette; Albert S. Gunn (recruit), Dixon; H. Sidney Hill (recruit), Sublette; Edward J. Keeney (recruit), Dixon; William B. Pratt (recruit), Sublette; Alexander Perry (recruit), May; David C. Robb (recruit), Hamilton; George W. Wallace (recruit), Dixon.

Company C: Elmore W. Hunt, 2d Lieut., Franklin Grove; Cyrus T. Ames, Lee Center; Edgar A. Bird, Sublette; Fred Boddenhogan, Sublette; Wm. H. Christopher, Sublette; Jackson L. Clink, Bradford; Thomas Clark, Sublette; Chetal Clark, Sublette; Andrew J. Clark, Dixon; Washington Eddy, Sublette; Levi Eddy, Sublette; Augustus Helmeztine, Sublette; Elmore W. Hunt, Sublette; a Sergeant who died at Nashville whose name at this point is omitted but whose residence was at Amboy, must have been James Henderson; William Hablitz, Bradford; Wm. Laycock, Sublette; Andrew Maxwell, Sublette; George C. McKeen, Sublette; Walter H. Norton, Bradford; William G. Orris, Amboy; David S. Porter, Bradford; Andrew J. Phillips, Sublette; James M. Pierce, Sublette; Ellery C. Thornton, Sublette.

Recruits: Richard E. Ash, Amboy; Benj. F. Bartlett, Amboy (?); Mathew Bryan, China; George Blocker, Amboy; Fessenden C. Butterfield, May; Isaac Blank, May; Daniel W. Craig, Amboy; Thomas B. Campbell, Amboy; Moses Crombie, Amboy; Henry C. Church, Marion; Richard B. Christopher, Lee Center; George Dunn, China; George L. Davis, China; James P. Dewey, Lee Center; William Dunn, Amboy; Anthony Ersfield, Amboy; Lewis F. Grover, Sublette; Walter L. Green, Sublette; William H. Gray, Amboy; James E. Gray, Lee Center; Duran F. Hulbert, Bradford; Levi Hergus, Amboy; John Hammerly, Amboy; William W. Johnson, Hamilton; Calvin M. Johnson, Hamilton; Victor M. Jones, Lee Center; Charles B. Leavins, Brooklyn; George Long, May;

Lyman L. Lewis, Lee Center; George Myers, Sublette; Charles Neiman, Bradford; Flavil F. Northway, Amboy; John Neff, Sand Ridge; Albert Pearl, Lee Center; Harrison Penfield, Lee Center; William E. Skinner, Amboy; Sidney P. Stevenson, May; Frederick Sawtell, Amboy; William Thompson, Lee Center; John H. Sindlinger, Amboy; Wm. Thompson, Lee Center; Alvin F. Tennant, Lee Center; Joseph G. Wolverton, Hamilton; Elnathan Wolverton, Hamilton; Jesse Wolverton, Hamilton.

The Adjutant General's report of this company is shamefully reproduced. Some political lout who was too lazy to digest a good meal prepared it. Nearly all the names in this company have the postoffice or township omitted, and I am sure three-fourths of the men came from Lee county.

Company D: Edward Klickner, Dixon; David B. Springer, May (?); Isaac Cook (recruit), Brooklyn; Dallas D. Cotton (recruit), Amboy; John L. Dolson (recruit), Reynolds; David Griffin (recruit), Hamilton; Homer Hawkins (recruit), Hamilton; James Hawkins (recruit), Hamilton; Allen A. Hopkins (recruit), Amboy; William D. Lamb (recruit), Brooklyn; Charles Lamb (recruit), Brooklyn; Thomas D. Lake (recruit), Brooklyn; Curtis Lester (recruit), Amboy; William McMahon (recruit), Amboy; Henry Miller, Brooklyn; Bennett Osborne, Hamilton; Joseph T. Parks (recruit), Reynolds; Fred M. Brecunier (recruit), Reynolds; Samuel Risley (recruit), Brooklyn; Thomas Rose (recruit), Amboy; Samuel P. Rose (recruit), Amboy; John D. Starks (recruit), Bradford; Montreville Tennant (recruit), Lee Center; Freegift Vandervort (recruit), Brooklyn.

Many postoffices or townships are omitted here too, so that I am sure several Lee county names are omitted.

Company F: Daniel S. Mitchell (recruit), Wyoming; Charles W. Mitchell (recruit), Brooklyn; Charles McClanahan (recruit), Brooklyn (?); Andrew P. Peel (recruit), Palmyra; Daniel L. Pratt (recruit), Sublette. Same trouble with addresses.

Company G: Abraham C. Corder (recruit), Brooklyn; Francis Dornan (recruit), Dixon; James Hamill (recruit), Dixon; Owen Smith (recruit), Dixon.

Company H: William H. Mills (recruit), Palmyra; John Williams (recruit), Dixon; William L. Williams (recruit), Dixon (?).

Company I: Alexander Kendall (recruit), Palmyra; Henry Miller (recruit), Dixon; Benjamin A. Pell (recruit), Palmyra.



Company K: Alonzo Butterfield (recruit), Paw Paw (?); Reed Avery (recruit), Paw Paw (?); James Chapman (recruit), Paw Paw (?); George W. Gorton (recruit), Paw Paw (?); Edmund Hermans (recruit), Paw Paw (?); Mathew Movern (recruit), Paw Paw (?); James Simpson (recruit), Paw Paw (?); Albert Wales (recruit), Paw Paw (?); William H. Wilson (recruit), May.

There is a bare possibility that some of the above Paw Paws may be in DeKalb county.

Company L: Cyrus O. Lyman (recruit), Bradford; Matthias Leech (recruit), China; Reed S. R. Munger (recruit), May; John Purtleman (recruit), China; Alfred Stewart (recruit), May.

Company M: William Potter (recruit), Dixon; Reuben F. Palmer (recruit), May; Thomas J. Stout (recruit), Amboy; John Werkeiser (recruit), Dixon.

Unassigned Recruits: Theodore P. Ackers, May; Mathew Brien, China; Joshua Batterton, Hermon (?); Benj. H. Bradshaw, Brooklyn; James O. Byrnes, Dixon; William Byer, Lee county; Thomas Campbell, Amboy; John Connors, Dixon; Winfield S. Clink, Sublette; Andrew J. Clark, Amboy; Joshua Fuller, Brooklyn; James Fitzpatrick, May; William D. James, Hamilton (?); Cyrus O. Lyman, Lee county; Thomas Morgan, Amboy; William O'Donnell, Lee Center; Willobie Potter, Amboy; Hial Pike, Lee Center; David C. Robbs, Lee county; Wilfred M. Sturdevant, Sublette; Clarence Woodbridge, Bradford; Thomas D. Yeake, Brooklyn (?).

To the uncertain ones I have added (?). There are several from Hermon I did not include. The spelling is fearfully bad in the record.

#### EIGHTH CAVALRY

John G. Chambers, Com. Sergt., China.

Company A: John W. Hutchings (recruit), China; Simon Hutchings (recruit), China; Jarvis Hurd (recruit), Ashton.

Company D: Lucius H. Morrill (recruit), Harmon.

Company F: Josiah Bowers (recruit), China; Thomas Pierce (recruit), China.

Company G: Alvah B. Fitch, 1st Lieut., China; John W. Breed, Dixon; William F. Blain, Dixon; Herman J. Becklenberg, China; Lucius R. Fitch, China; Joseph B. Spafford, Dixon; William Young, Dixon.

Recruits: Bedford E. A. Bradforder, China; Jonathan B. Fellows, China; Samuel Hutchings, Bradford.

Company I: Edwin Bedford (recruit), Dixon.

Company K: David Carnahan (recruit), Brooklyn.

Company L: Jonathan V. Taylor, Dixon; Thomas F. Lawson (recruit), Alto.

Unassigned Recruits: James Forrest, Lee (?); David O'Neal, China; James Riley, Dixon; Peter Schumacher, Sublette; Jacob H. Taylor, Dixon.

#### NINTH CAVALRY

Company H: Ferdinand Bassett (recruit), Hamilton (?).

#### TENTH CAVALRY

Edward L. Lathrop, Asst. Surgeon, Dixon.

#### ELEVENTH CAVALRY

Z. James McMaster, Surgeon, Dixon.

#### TWELFTH CAVALRY

Company A: (Recruits) Benjamin A. Gould, Alto; John Hart, Dixon; Edward C. McClure, Alto.

Company G: (Recruits) Leonidas Kelly, Hamilton (?); Russell Reece, Hamilton (?); Ed T. Stuart, Hamilton (?).

Company I: Amasa B. Crandall, Farrier, Dixon; William C. Jones, Dixon; Charles Keech, Brooklyn; David Lester, Palmyra; William J. Moran, Brooklyn; Horace T. Plumb, Bradford; Samuel S. Reed, Dixon; Franklin S. Shirk, Hamilton; George St. Clair, Dixon; Leonard Stumpf, Brooklyn; Mark Thomas, Dixon; Albert A. Van Gieson, Dixon; Charles R. White, Dixon.

I find in the Twelfth Consolidated Cavalry a Francis S. Shirk, of Dixon. It may or may not be above Franklin S. Shirk. I find also as a recruit in this regiment, an Edward L. Lathrop, of Dixon, who must be the surgeon in the Tenth.

Company H, Consolidated: Henry Richardson, 2d Lieut., Lee county; Jesse H. Doane, unassigned recruit, Amboy; Homer C. Stedman, Dixon; Lyman W. Booth, Dixon; Edward B. Warner (recruit), Dixon.

Company M: John W. Cartright, Dixon; George Hardin, Dixon; Henry Richardson, Dixon; William Saylor, Dixon; William H. Wade, Dixon; George M. Williams, Sublette.

Unassigned Recruits: Arthur Bailey, Sublette; James H. Barrett, Dixon; Charles E. Burns, Dixon; George Burchel, Amboy; Dwight Burnham, Nelson; John J. Boyce, Dixon; W. J. Carpenter, Dixon; Hugh Colter, Brooklyn; Lewis Compton, Brooklyn; James Carmen, Brooklyn; Morris T. Dunn, Sublette; John W. Holtzman, Dixon; Edward Herrick, Dixon; George A. Kerr, Dixon.

#### FOURTEENTH CAVALRY

Company C: Joseph W. Clark, Sergt., Dixon; Alfred F. Young, Corp., Dixon; James P. Breed, Dixon; Andrew E. Jones, Dixon; Eugene H. Levering, Dixon; William Peeks, Dixon; John H. Richardson, Dixon; John Sifes, Dixon.

#### SIXTEENTH CAVALRY

Company K: Joseph E. Barber, recruit, Dixon.

#### SEVENTEENTH CAVALRY

Company K: Charles E. Burns, Dixon; Samuel S. Reed, Dixon; Geo. C. St. Clair, Dixon; Mark Thomas, Dixon.

Company L: William J. Carpenter transferred to this Company, Dixon; Charles Keech, Brooklyn; Leonard Stumpf, Brooklyn; Hugh Catter, Brooklyn; Lewis Compton, Brooklyn. Three or four of these members came here by transfer, which makes a repetition of their names.

Company M: Arthur D. Bailey, 1st Sergt., Sublette; George G. Hardin, Wagoner, Dixon; James Carmon, Brooklyn; John W. Holtzman, Dixon; George A. Kerr, Dixon; Nattie C. Roe, Ashton; William J. Moran, Brooklyn.

#### FIRST ARTILLERY

John T. Cheney, Major, Dixon.

Battery C: Guy W. Blanchard, Dixon; George S. Benton, Sublette; Julius A. Perkins, Sublette; Henry J. Shoemaker, Dixon; Jeremiah Swoyer, Nelson.

Battery D: Henry C. Powers, 2d Lieut., Dixon; Lewis W. Jones, Corp., Wyoming; Theodore S. Jones, Wyoming; Eli Mead, Wyoming; Horace McIntyre, Wyoming; Amos A. Neal, Wyoming; Henry R. Walton, Wyoming (?).

Recruits: Noah Beal, Dixon; Amanzel D. Burr, Dixon; George C. Ball, Dixon; Seth C. Bretton, Wyoming; Benjamin W. Clapp, Dixon; William Steele, Dixon; Samuel Sepley, Dixon; George W. Tracy, Dixon; Joshua Wood, Dixon.

Battery F: This battery, "Cheney's," was discontinued and the veterans and recruits were assigned Feb. 22, 1865, to other batteries.

Josiah H. Burton, Capt., Dixon; Jefferson F. Whaley, 1st Lieut., Brooklyn; Theodore W. Raub, 2d Lieut., Dixon; Robert Richey, 2d Lieut., Brooklyn; John Q. Yates, 2d Lieut., Dixon.

Sergeants: Edward O'Brien, Dixon; James M. Vesper, Dixon.

Privates: Frederick W. Bennett, Dixon; Obadiah Berringer, Brooklyn; Lloyd Berringer, Brooklyn; Reuben Booth, Brooklyn; Henry C. Chappell, Brooklyn; G. W. Christiance, Brooklyn; Benjamin Carey, Dixon; George Carey, Dixon; Cornelius Christiance, Brooklyn; Valentine Doctor, Brooklyn; Frederick E. Fuller, Brooklyn; Ole Gunderson, Dixon; Charles Hough, Brooklyn; Henry Horn, Dixon; John Haynes, Dixon; Jacob Hoffman, Palmyra; Frederick Holdren, Brooklyn; Charles Y. (or G.) Kennedy, Dixon; Michael Kearns, Dixon; Michael Karshner, Brooklyn; Walter Little, Viola; Leander L. Leach, Dixon; Jeremiah Lenihan, Dixon; John H. Lyle, Dixon; James Lahey, Dixon; John Mann, Brooklyn; Frank McElroy, Brooklyn; John Nightlinger, Sublette; S. E. Parker, Brooklyn; Amos Rohrer, Dixon; John Reardon, Palmyra; William Richardson, Dixon; Thomas Shelly, Brooklyn; Perry Stetler, China; Rush Schick, Palmyra; N. H. Thompson, Dixon; James E. Taylor, Dixon; James Thompson, Palmyra; Earl A. White, Dixon; Addison Wagner, Dixon; Johnson Whaley, Brooklyn; Albert Youngs, Brooklyn. Recruits: Henry W. Ayres, Dixon; Frank Aird, Brooklyn; Calvin Burkett, Dixon; James Ball, Dixon; Daniel Bressie, Dixon; Henry E. Brierton, Dixon; Benjamin Burr, Dixon; Sylvanus Beadway, Dixon; William M. Black, Palmyra; John D. Boardman, Dixon; Franklin H. Babbitt, Dixon; Lionel C. Burr, Dixon; Charles W. Curtis, Dixon; Daniel Cobb, Viola; William H. Christiance, Brooklyn; Franklin Conway, Palmyra; Homer H. Clink, Palmyra; John W. Deck, Palmyra; Laureston L. Deyo, Dixon; Eliphalet B. Edson, Dixon; Alfred Eyre, Palmyra; Wil-



liam Elwert, Dixon; Hervey Ferguson, Dixon; George W. Farrell, Dixon; Samuel C. Fairchilds, Brooklyn; George W. Goodwin, Dixon; Alonzo D. Gage, Dixon; Henry Graff, Dixon; Justin Hollister, Dixon; John Hughes, Dixon; Hiram Hetler, Dixon; Theodore Johnson, Palmyra; German Knipper, Ashton; Edwin M. Keiser, Dixon; Andrew J. Loveless, Dixon; Thomas C. Little, Dixon; Charles Lowe, Dixon; George R. Loveland, Dixon; Joseph M. Loveless, Dixon; Jeremiah Mosteller, Dixon; Clark W. Moon, Dixon; Henry L. Peacock, Dixon; Shepard G. Patrick, Dixon; Franklin O. Pierce, Brooklyn; William C. Snyder, Dixon; John J. Snail, Dixon; Adam Scheer, Dixon; Henry W. Short, Palmyra; Emery M. Santee, Dixon; William H. Scullen, Lee Center; Amos Sweet, Brooklyn; Edward Shelters, Dixon; William A. Stewart, Dixon.

## FIRST BATTALION

John Tombow, Palmyra; Alexander Turner, Dixon; Van J. Thomas, Palmyra; William T. Wood, Dixon; Thomas Wade, Dixon.

It has been difficult to get these names, whole pages of the report have no addresses. For instance, George R. Loveland's address was blank. I am fearful, therefore, that some names have been omitted.

Battery G: William Hamilton, Amboy.

Battery I: Michael Welch, Dixon.

Unassigned Recruits: Frederick E. Fuller, Willow Creek; John Jordan, Dixon; Simon P. Kuhn, Palmyra (?); Franklin Peterson, Dixon; Noah Thomas, Palmyra (?).

## SECOND ARTILLERY

Battery F: Peter C. Brooks, Nelson (?).

Battery G: Charles Slate, Wyoming.

Recruits: Edgar M. Condit, Hamilton; George C. Cade, Hamilton; Milton B. Dunton, Willow Creek; Horace Kegwin, Hamilton; Henry P. Landus, Reynolds; Jabez Landus, Willow Creek; Oscar F. McIntosh, Reynolds; Warren Pike, Hamilton; Hugh Scott, Viola; Frederick M. Tilden, Hamilton; Chabris Taylor, Alto; William Tate, Hamilton; Lucius C. Vroman, Willow Creek; Allen B. Warn, Amboy; Alonzo Webster, Viola.

Battery K: William N. Henrie, Dixon. This man served three years in Company H, Forty-sixth Illinois Infantry. He came from Kane county. Here he enlisted as a veteran. In reality, he was not a Dixon man.

Battery L: Patrick Kerivan, Dixon.

Cogswell's Battery: John Allen, Wyoming; Horace Allen, Wyoming.

Henshaw's Battery: Michael L. Keryn, Dixon; Lawrence J. Millard, Marion; Barney McCoy, Amboy; Thomas O'Connor, Dixon; Henry O'Neal, Amboy.

#### COLORED TROOPS

Company F: John Walmslee, Sergeant, Dixon.

#### SIXTY-EIGHTH UNITED STATES COLORED INFANTRY

Isaac Waugh, Dixon.

#### FIRST UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS

Company Two: Frederick A. Snider, Dixon.

Company Three: Horace S. Tambling, Reynolds.

Company Four: Jacob Hoffman, Palmyra (?); Solomon Shafer, Nelson.

Company Five: Philip Puterbaugh, Viola (?); Abram Swartwout, Sublette.

Company Six: George Christianee, Brooklyn; Parker L. Cass, Sublette; George Feidles, Brooklyn; Michael Keraus, Sublette; Andrew Lind, Sublette.

Company Seven: Henry Henzer, Willow Creek.

Company Nine: George A. Seymour, Palmyra (?).

Company Ten: Edward A. Barnard, Lee Center; Henry Clay, Lee Center; Frank C. Lee, Lee Center; Henry J. Lee, Lee Center.

Company Eleven: James H. Mannen, Ashton.

Company Twelve: Robert Kenney, Willow Creek.

#### RECRUITS FOR REGULAR ARMY -FOURTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY

James J. Ashley, Amboy.

## SEVENTEENTH UNITED STATES INFANTRY

David Abbott, Amboy; Charles A. Anderson or Andrews, Dixon; Reuben Blank, Amboy; Abraham Blank, Amboy; Frederick Bailey, Amboy; Maximon Bourdon, Amboy; Peter Blackburn, Amboy; Robert Brown, Dixon; Douglas Cameron, Amboy; John Cunningham, Amboy; Patrick Carey, Amboy; James K. P. Craig, Amboy; Joseph Fulks, Amboy; Stephen Fairman, Amboy; Henry H. Fritz, Amboy; Lorenzo B. Gardner, Amboy; Joseph Graham, Amboy; Stephen Z. Hartley, Amboy; Abram Hill, Amboy; M. W. Hollister (rejected, ill health), Amboy; Charles Hill, Amboy; Lorenzo B. Kiser, Amboy; Dudley P. Loomis, Amboy; William Lafity, Amboy; Charles A. Lambert, Amboy; Robert Livingston, Amboy; Stephen Lee, Amboy; Samuel Leonard, Amboy; Charles McCristal, Amboy; Patrick McGinnis, Amboy; John Murphy, Amboy; James H. Osgood, Amboy; Stephen Osegh, Amboy; James Potter, Amboy; Patrick Ross, Amboy; Andrew Schoonmaker, Amboy; David Springer, Amboy; Franklin Saylor, Amboy; Davies Springer, Amboy; John Sullivan, Dixon; Patrick Tiernay, Amboy; Edward Thompson, Dixon; Patrick P. Ward, Amboy; George H. Wilson, Amboy; William A. Whitehead, Amboy; Frank Wright, Amboy; John C. Wagner, Dixon.





## CHAPTER VIII

### INTERNAL IMPROVEMENTS IN LEE COUNTY

It was the policy of the Board of Public Works of Illinois, to build the proposed great north and south railroad in sections, here and there, in order to keep the various settlements in a tranquil state of mind. Dixon's Ferry was given more than its due proportion, and instead of building from both sides of a stream as was the policy of the commissioners, in Lee, they built altogether from the south bank of Rock river, southward, and clear through the county to its southern boundary. That circumstance indicates to us of today the commanding position of Dixon's Ferry in Illinois affairs, although it contained but a house or two or three at the time. And it indicates also the commanding influence of John Dixon as a factor in the business and political affairs of Illinois.

When in 1837-8 and -9, these works were going forward, the engineers of the state occupied a building on First street as their headquarters. It has been mentioned once, but repetition here will not be uninteresting.

In 1835, James Wilson built a blacksmith shop of logs on First street, on the spot occupied by the present Dixon Telegraph building and its neighboring building to the west. The building did not reach the corner. I would say the west wall of the Telegraph building would measure approximately the center of the old log building. In 1837 this building received a floor, and it was used to hold therein the only term of court held in what comprehended the territory of the old Ogle of Lee and Ogle counties.

This building, on the south side of the street, was perhaps twenty feet long, east and west, and when the grade was cut down to its present level, rather than pare down the entire lot even with

the street, as at present, a stone basement or ground floor story was built under the building to reach the street level, so that thereafter the building became a two-story building. The upper one of logs was sided and in its altered form, it gave out the appearance of a very elaborate structure.

The appointment of John Dixon as a member for the Sixth Judicial District of the Board of Public Works, gave to Dixon's Ferry a still more commanding position.

Large quantities of stone, much of it dressed for proposed outside use in building piers and abutments in bridges over streams, including Rock river, were hauled into Lee county and deposited along the route of the proposed railroad and in Dixon a very large amount of material was left.

In reports for subsequent years, made by the commission, it is interesting to notice the orders made for the public sale at Dixon, of those materials. The grade made through Lee county began at the south bank of Rock river where Hennepin avenue intersects the same and ran southerly, crossing the south line of Lee not far east of the Dad Joe house. To this day it may be traced overland for every foot of its ancient course and so too may it be traced easily from the old first map of Lee county made in 1863 by Joseph Crawford and Jason C. Ayres.

Originally it was planned to have a wagon road run alongside its alignment on the northeasterly side, but with the abandonment of the project, the grade was appropriated instead and was retained for many years. Between Dixon and the Northwestern right of way, it is used today as at first. Beginning at the junction of Hennepin avenue with the river the grade was designed to run south on the avenue to the library corner where it curved towards the east, passing through the jail block and the intervening blocks between that and Seventh street and Chicago road, just east of the Keyes residence. Here as a matter of fact, the actual grading began for its southward journey. Beyond the right of way of the Northwestern, it paralleled the present Chicago road until the Clarence Smith place is reached at the top of the hill, where it continued southerly between the Smith house and the White Temple schoolhouse. A short distance further on it followed the Peru road. On the farm north of the county farm, the channel by the roadside is well defined still, and the right of way passed through the dooryard of the county farm, running not far west of Shelburne and the Joseph G. Hall farm; further south, it ran through Maytown by the diagonal road that passes the spot

occupied by the old Academy before its destruction. It is today a clean-cut trace, with the few exceptions where intervening ridges appear. No doubt these appear because when the various gangs working towards each other got orders to quit, their work had not met the work of the approaching gang. It may be interesting to know that Sterling made desperate efforts to secure the location of the Central road at that place. The counter petition which was presented by John Dixon is now owned by Edward H. Brewster and reads as follows:

To the Honorable, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Illinois,

Your petitioners—Citizens residing on Rock River and vicinity understanding that a petition has been or is about to be presented to your Honorable body representing that the Central Rail Road or that part of the same from Rocky ford to Savannah crossing Rock River at Dixon is located on unfavourable ground, occasioning a longer and more expensive route &c &c.—to which we would respectfully protest—

And would add, that whatever may be the feelings of a few interested individuals at Sterling, we are of the opinion that *that part of the Central Rail Road alluded to*, has been *judiciously located*—answering both the interest of the finances of the State and that of a very large majority of the Citizens of the Rock River Country—

Authentic information on this Subject is in reach of your Honorable body, to which we would respectfully refer you. In the reports of the Engineers, duly appointed to examine and Survey Said Road, information will be found properly attested. And your petitioners have too much confidence in the good sense and judgment of our Legislature than to suppose the representations of a few individuals should have much weight against all the evidence in your possession to the Contrary—

Praying that your honors will Consider said petition for what it is worth—Your petitioners as in duty bound will ever pray

T. D. Boardman  
Smith Gilbraith  
Jos. Crawford  
Charles Edson  
D. C. Stevens  
John Van Arnam  
Nelson Barnes  
Thomas McCabe

C. Brookner  
John Neumeyer  
Nelson Douglass  
R. B. Loveland  
Wm. Seaward  
J. Campbell  
John G. Bellanger  
J. H. Page

Noble P. Bassett  
S. M. Bowman  
Oliver Everett  
Nathan Whitney  
Asa W. Stowell  
Ab'm Cool  
G. B. Dills  
A. M. Braley  
Jos. Hartman  
C. F. Ingals  
J. S. Boardman  
C. A. Lane  
P. M. Alexander  
John C. Oliver  
Simon Fellows  
Ahuh Moulton  
Samuel M. Fellows  
James Power  
John Morgan  
Jacob Martin  
S. T. Martin  
Wm. W. Tilton  
O. A. Hubbard  
W. P. Burrough  
Alanson Smith  
T. H. Burroughs  
Orin Skeel  
C. W. McNaughton  
E. Morgan  
Geo. W. Chase  
J. M. Hamilton  
E. S. Wing  
Wm. A. Fraser  
E. W. Dutcher  
Thomas Dexter  
Michael Horner  
Zachariah Phillips  
J. D. McComsey  
Harvey Wordle  
Isaac Griffeth  
William Kennedy  
William Lane

Stephen Fuller  
I. P. Mallock  
Alfred Cogswell  
Jas. McKenney  
R. McKenney  
David Brown  
Ebenezer H. Johnson  
John A. Burton  
William Marsh  
William Mackay  
D. B. McKenney  
Homer Preston  
John McKenney  
Frederick R. Dutcher  
O. H. Chessman  
Henry Turrel  
Horace Benjamin  
John Wilson  
Jas. P. Dixon  
F. A. Martin  
Wm. G. Frasier  
Carlton Meliners  
F. W. Coe  
W. S. Coe  
Stern Mason  
William Miers  
Harvey Morgan  
Isaac Morgan  
Wm. W. Beach  
I. T. Martin  
David Hill  
Wm. Martin  
A. L. Porter  
M. Fellows  
I. M. Johnson  
Triton Swera  
John Dexter  
John Montieth  
Edward Crosby  
J. T. Little  
C. D. Howard  
Daniel Reichwaz



Sam'l Nobling  
Austin L. Bull  
Gardner Robinson  
Carter McCumsey  
J. Tharp Lawrence, Jr.  
F. C. Whitney  
Isaac Robinson  
Hiram Vanpatten  
Peter McKenney  
J. B. Chatham  
Joshua Cameron  
J. B. Nash  
Dan'l Carpenter  
Wm. Dolan  
Josef Lorimer  
Wm. McKenney  
Daniel McKenney  
N. G. H. Morrill  
L. S. Huff

John G. Peabody  
Nathaniel Browning  
E. W. Hine  
William Thompson  
John McAllister  
James Benjamin  
C. Brookner  
John W. Dixon  
Jas. De Pui  
John Crosby  
Elisha Crosby  
Noah Beede  
Al. Fender  
W. W. Bethea  
Solomon Fender  
Wm. Miller  
John Belanger  
Horace Thompson

Dixon prevailed. Beyond doubt, Mr. Dixon's appointment in 1838 as member of the Board of Public Works had much to do with the defeat of Sterling's aspirations.

The Tenth General Assembly, of which Abraham Lincoln and Stephen A. Douglas were members, reduced to a point resembling system the vast numbers of inane theories which the people demanded, and Stephen A. Douglas was the member whose resolutions permitted it to be done. The Illinois and Michigan canal project by this time had proceeded a considerable distance. This scheme, however, should not become confused with the internal improvement schemes. The canal scheme may be said to date back when Representative Pope laid off the boundaries for the new state, and in January (22), 1829, when the act was passed providing for the appointment of commissioners to fix upon the route.

The year 1837 was the year of the Douglas resolutions and the beginning of active preparations for work. The bill which was passed at last, over the objections of the council of revision and the Governor's objections, appropriated the enormous sum of \$10,200,000. Of this sum, \$100,000 was appropriated for the improvement of Rock river, and for the railroad (through Dixon's Ferry) from Cairo to Galena \$3,500,000 was appropriated. This latter was the most important of the list and received the largest

appropriation, and in the distribution of the \$5,668,000 which was realized from the sale of bonds, the sum of \$1,142,027 was placed in the hands of the commissioners of public works to spend; about one half the sum appropriated by the bill.

Thus for a short while over two years, the insane mania proceeded. In 1839, the people awakened to the fact that they were in debt over \$17,000,000 and had nothing to show for it but a few grades and cuts and the great internal schemes collapsed. Lee county was favored more than any other northern county in the way of railroad grades and the Central Railroad languished until Senators Stephen A. Douglas and Sidney Breese, in the United States Senate, later secured the land grant which permitted the Illinois Central Railroad to be built through Lee county, not very far away from the old grade of fifteen or sixteen years before.

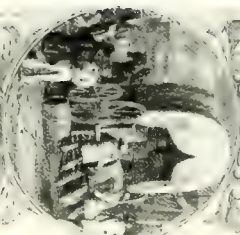
The scrip used in payment for labor and material depreciated to a ruinously small figure. I have secured a piece of it to reproduce here as an illustration.

THREE

STATE OF

ILLINOIS.

THREE



The DEXTER HOTEL Company

Will pay to the order of

PETER BIE

DIXON STREET No. 257, 133

J. J. Douglas



SCRIP ISSUED BY FIRST CORPORATION ORGANIZED IN THE COUNTY, THIRTY, THROUGH  
NICHOLAS BIDDLE OF THE UNITED STATES BANK





CHAPTER IX  
THE FRENCH IN LEE COUNTY  
By Oliver L. Gehant

The French in Lee county are to be found in nearly all the walks of life and scattered throughout the entire twenty-two townships. To the writer, however, it appears that the heaviest settlement is in Viola and Brooklyn townships, at West Brooklyn, and in the vicinity bordering that town. At least one-half of Brooklyn enterprise is due to the French descendants, and especially in the west half of the township they, with the Germans, constitute the majority of the population. We also find the French in Lee Center on the west and in Wyoming on the east. Quite a settlement is located in May township, a goodly number in Ashton, as well as scattering numbers in Dixon, South Dixon, Amboy, Harmon, East Grove, Bradford and Alto townships.

Our subject being a little too broad on account of our meagre knowledge of the French inhabitants throughout the entire county and not having the opportunity to learn more of those living out of the range of our acquaintance, we shall attempt only to center our history upon the French in our own township and its adjoining communities. We must therefore ask the indulgence of our readers in overlooking any errors we might make or any omissions which might occur. Let us assure you that they shall not be intentional, but owing to lack of information.

The early arrivals from France landed at Lee Center township about the year 1853. Benjamin Leepy, a shoemaker, located at Lee Center and followed his profession for a number of years. The others were farmers in the persons of Claude Gehant and Ferdinando Py who took up their homes in Bradford township. Two years later, in 1855, a party of sixteen left their native land for America and all settled in the vicinity of Bradford. The party

included John Bazel Henry and wife with their two sons, Constant and Leopold. Constant had been married in France and was accompanied by his wife. Others in the party were Mr. and Mrs. John Bresson and their children, Delphine, Polite and Delphan; Mr. and Mrs. Edward Antoine and their three months old baby boy; Constant Barlow; Blaze Fraescheau and Modest Gehant. They landed at New York and started westward immediately, stopping at Franklin Grove upon reaching Lee county. From here they made their selection of homes in Bradford township and for a few years the entire sixteen were located in the same parish. On January 13, 1858, two of the party were married, Delphine Bresson and Leopold Henry. This was one of the earliest French marriages taking place in the county and was solemnized at Amboy. The young couple made their home in Bradford township for a time and then removed to Shelby county where they remained for ten years. After their return to this county they located in Viola township on the farm which became known as the old homestead. About ten years ago they retired from the farm and located in West Brooklyn. To this union ten children were born, six of whom are still living and residing in the county. They are Lydia (Montavon), Amel, Eugene, Delphan (deceased), Edward, Josephine, Francis (deceased), Mary (Gehant), Francis Faley (deceased), and Charles (deceased).

Constant Henry had been a soldier in France before coming to this country and had served seven years in Africa defending the French flag. He also saw service in Algeria and Egypt. There were ninety-six in the party when the soldiers left the mother county for Africa, and only six of them returned home. The climate of the desert and the guns of the natives were terrible for any but a native to withstand. His stories of soldier life in Africa can yet be remembered by our older inhabitants. His family were all born in Lee county. They are Delia (Lawrence), Victorine (Jeanblanc), Jennie (Larkin), and Mary (Terhune). Delia and Victorine, after their marriages, moved to Iowa and are located at Eagle Grove and Fort Dodge. The other two children are still residing in the eastern part of the county.

In the year 1857 Mr. and Mrs. Laurent Gehant, Sr., and two daughters, Judith (now Mrs. Joseph E. Henry of Dixon) and Leona (first wife of Joseph Chaon and now deceased), arrived at Lee Center and here the husband and father found employment in the Clapp stone quarries for a couple of years. With his family, which now consisted of Judith, Leona, and Frank J., and accom-

panied by Constant and Leopold Henry and their families, he moved to Shelby county where they resided for ten years. All removed to Lee county in the spring of 1868, where Mr. Gehant continued to reside until his death at the ripe age of seventy-eight years. His other children, part of them born in Shelby county, were Laurent, Jr., Henry F., Andrew, Sarah (Jeanblanc), and Melenda (Edwards).

In 1857 Frances Barlow and her daughter, Caroline, and the Antoinettes—Clarice, Mary, Euphania, Moses, Edward, and their father—settled here. The French migrations to Lee county seemed to cease about this time and we hear of no more until about 1867.

During this time many of these people were intermarrying. Delphan Bresson married Clarice Antoine while his brother, Polite, took for his wife Caroline Barlow. Delphan settled in Viola where he continued to reside until his death, a number of years ago. He is survived by his widow and two sons, Henry and Alfred, both of Minnesota, and one daughter Mary, wife of August Gehant.

Polite Bresson, like his brother, was a successful farmer of Viola township up to the time of his death. His family surviving him are his aged widow and eight children, namely: Faley, Amel, Frank, Edward, Charles, Lydia (Berscheid), Amelia (Montavon), and Mary (July). Another son, Modest, died a few years ago. All are highly respected citizens of this county and numbered among Viola's leading inhabitants. Amel Bresson is a graduate of Valparaiso University, at Valparaiso, Ind.

Modest Gehant went to Ohio for his wife, marrying Olympia Chaon. They settled north of West Brooklyn and there reared a large family. They are: Xavier, August, Joseph, Modest, Frank, Adolph, Izedore, Louis, Josephine (Henry, deceased), Leona (Henry), Margarette (Henry), Mary (Oester), and Susan (Auchstetter). It was due to this marriage that the Chaons, Xavier and his wife, Josephine, soon afterward came westward and settled near their daughter. Besides Mrs. Modest Gehant, they had four sons, August (deceased), Amadia, Joseph, and Charles (deceased). Amadia Chaon did not live here long after attaining his majority and, as we shall see later, is located in the western part of our country. Joseph, alone, together with his family are residents of the county at this time.

Claude Gehant, who came in 1853, was married three times, his first wife being a French girl from LaSalle county. To this

union was born one son, namely Henry F., of Chicago. His second wife was Mary Antoine, and the third Mrs. Mary Py, widow of Sylvan Py, who will be remembered as the son of Ferdinando Py. Sylvan Py met his death at the age of thirty-three years through wounds sustained in a runaway accident. As the husband of Mary Antoine, Claude Gehant had three children, Frank D., Euphania (Jeanguenat, deceased), and Arthur. By his union with Mrs. Mary Py, he had six children, as follows: Clementine (McCrea), Edward, Louise (Faltz), Victoria (Bittner), Margarette (Bieschke), and Josephine (deceased). The Py children at the time of the marriage of their mother to Mr. Gehant, were Joseph (deceased), Eugene, Eliza (Gehant), Mary (Faltz), and Adella (Frank).

Euphania Antoine, who was married to Morris July, was the mother of two sons, Albin and Leon. Mack July, twin brother of Morris, and their brother Joseph followed Morris to this county. Mack was married twice, his first wife being Felicia Biescha, while his second was Mary Tillion. They raised a large family. These marriages account for the family name found throughout the county today. The Julys migrated here from Ohio after the Civil war and have since continued to reside here. Morris July distinguished himself very ably as a private in the war, and can tell many tales of the hardships and occurrences of that terrible time.

Benjamin Leepy, after discontinuing his shoe shop at Lee Center, took up the farm life on a nearby farm and prospered for a number of years. Mr. and Mrs. Leepy were the parents of eight children, four girls and four boys—Ludina, Melenda, Addie, Arlena, Theodore, Jerome, Edward and Lucian. After her husband's death Mrs. Leepy married August Barlow, himself a widower. His first wife had been Adell Py, the only daughter of Ferdinando Py, and to whom had been born ten named children, Sylvan, Edward, Victor, Amel, Leon, Adolph, Lydia, Clementine (deceased), Adeline and Nettie.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Antoine raised six children, including Julius, who crossed the Atlantic with his parents when but three months old. Mrs. Antoine died leaving this family in charge of their father, who afterwards married a second time. To this union six children were born—Edward, George, Henry, Frank, Isaac and Addie.

Gradually one by one the French gathered at Lee Center, and in addition to those already named we find in one community Mr.



and Mrs. Charles Jeanblanc, Mr. and Mrs. Maximan Aubert, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Breschon, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Breschon, Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Biescha, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Antoine, Louis Champlan, Nicholas Schoeffle, Jerry Tondreau, Justin and Edward Tebeau, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Petit, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Simon and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lawrence. Charles Jeanblanc's family consisted of three sons—Alexander, Constant and Abell. The Aubert family included three children, Leon, Benjamin and Josephine. Joseph Breschon had two sons, Charles and Joseph. Alexander Biescha was the father of two boys and two girls, namely, Frank, Alexander, Mary and Felica. Moses Antoine was married twice, his children by his first wife being Albert, Addie and Lucian. By his second wife they were James and Lizzie. Louis Champlan married Julia Henry, Nicholas Schoeffle married her sister Margarette, while Jerry Tondreau married a third sister, Leona. Justin Tebeau took for his wife Mary Montavon, a French woman from Switzerland. His brother Edward married Lydia Barlow. The last eight families moved to Iowa, where their descendents are still to be found.

Francis Henry landed at New Orleans in 1867 and settled at Joliet, Ill., where his wife died soon after the establishment of the new home. Her death left the husband with ten children, some of whom were of very tender age. The family consisted of four boys and six girls, as follows: Joseph, Victor, Amel, Edward, Cathryn (Barlow), Margurette (Schoeffel), Leona (Tondreau), Julia (Champlan), Mary (Mertens), Josephine (Coty).

Joseph, the eldest son, saw service in the rebel army during the Civil war, while his brother Victor fought in the Union ranks, the two brothers taking part in several important engagements between the Blue and the Grey. Both were wounded in battle and each accused the other of firing the shot that marked the two for life. Joseph was not a rebel from choice, but being engaged in business south of the Mason and Dixie line at the outbreak of the Civil war, was given his choice between service in the Confederate army or confinement in the Andersonville prison. He chose the former and was made captain of his company, he being the only man in the company able to read orders, and served in the rebel ranks till wounded, when he returned to Lee county. After the war he served as an Indian scout for Uncle Sam in company with Buffalo Bill on the western plains. Victor, after his honorable discharge from the Union army, returned to Lee county and was joined by his brother Joseph, who in partnership engaged in farming for

some years in Bradford township. Their bachelor home was a favorite place during the long winter nights, where the neighbors would assemble to listen to the brothers campfire tales of war times or "on the trail of the Indians" of the western plains. Edward, another brother, after reaching his majority, settled in eastern Nebraska. Joseph E. Henry, better known as Squire Henry, settled in Bradford township where he owns a 360-acre farm. He was honored by his fellow townsmen with the important office of justice of the peace for more than twenty years. After retiring from the farm he took up his residence at West Brooklyn, and about two years ago moved to Dixon. The Squire married Judith Gehant, and to this union five children were born, Leona (Jean-guenat), Edna, Laura (Wiser), Laurent and Amel (deceased). The latter was an instructor in St. Martin's College of Lacy, Washington, at the time of his death. Joseph E. Henry of Dixon and his sister Catherine Bernardin of Amboy, together with their children, are the only members of the Francis Henry family still residing in Lee county. Constant Barlow, who had been here since 1855, became the husband of Cathryn Henry, and to this union five children were born, Theodore, Alfred, Constant, Cathryn and Tena.

Constant Favre and wife, together with their two sons and two daughters, Lewis, Delphan, Gustin and Olympia, came here from Southern Ohio and settled in May township about the year 1868. The older Favres have been dead for many years. Louis, the oldest son, still resides in May township, and is recognized as one of the largest land owners in that part of the county. Delphan, the younger son, sold out his real estate possessions in Lee county some ten years ago and removed to Southern Minnesota, where it is reported he controls a large acreage of choice land. Gustin (Aubert), the older daughter, is still a resident of May, residing on the old Aubert homestead near the Lewis Favre estate. Olympia (Henry) has been dead for a number of years. Victor Henry, husband of Olympia, married a second time, and then removed to Kankakee, but their three daughters continued to reside in Lee county. Frank Deville and Remy Arnould came to the vicinity of Ashton about 1867, and today we still find their descendents in the county. Mr. Deville's family consisted of four girls and one son, the latter dying years ago. The girls names are Victorine, Clara, Mary and Euphania. Mr. Arnould was the father of three boys, Julius of Viola, Vincent of Dixon and Edward of Ashton.

Eugene Vincent, who had settled at Somonauk in DeKalb county upon his arrival in Illinois from his native land, came to our county in 1867. He was the first of this family to arrive here. He settled in Viola township and continued to farm until about fifteen years ago when he and his wife located in West Brooklyn. His family are Joseph, Ernest, Modest, Amel and Mary. His wife was Clementine Diloisy. Her brother Joseph is best known in the county, having resided in various parts for many years. One of the Diloisy girls married Charles Applegreen, while still another became Mrs. Maggie Jerrard. The fifth member of the family, Batiste Diloisy, was but little known here.

Joseph Vincent, Sr., came to our county a little later than his brother Eugene, but even then, not until after his son Joseph and daughter Mary had crossed the Atlantic and located here. There were still two others of the Vincent family who journeyed to our country and settled here, they being Josephine and Mary, who became the wives of Prosper Gander and August Chaon. Their father, whose name also was Joseph, never settled here, but did, however, spend a few months visiting with his daughters after their marriage. Prosper Gander arrived here from Pennsylvania, where he had stopped upon reaching American soil.

Joseph Bernardin left France about 1854 and settled with the French in Ohio. About 1870 he too followed the others to Lee county and remained a resident here until his death, at Amboy, a few years ago. He was married twice, his children by his first wife being Henry, Charles, and Mary (Arnold). His second wife was the widow of Constant Barlow and to this union were born three children—Julius, Louise (Schroer), and Peter.

These individuals and families seem to include all the early French settlers in that part of Lee county covered by our subject, and it is due to these pioneers that we find the French descendants so prominently located in this county today.

There are the Henrys, Gehants, Bressons, Bernardins, and Vincents in and near West Brooklyn; the Arnoulds at Ashton; the Favres in Maytown; the Barlows, Antoinnes and Devilles at Amboy—all bearing the names of their ancestors direct from France. Many other French names are to be heard throughout the county and in some way or other a goodly number of these are related to those first pioneer settlers but have since lost the family name through marriage to others of the French nationality who have come from other states or have come from the old country in later years.



Perhaps the largest families of the French nationality to be found in Lee county are the Henrys and the Gehants. As large as these families are we have them nearly all in one community and prospering with their other French brethren. The Henrys are divided into three distinct families, each family coming from ancestors who are not related to each other. John Bazel Henry, who came in 1855, was not related to Francis Henry, who came in 1867. Neither were these two related to August Henry who settled in Ohio and continued to live there until his death. His son Alexander journeyed to our county within the last ten years and has continued to reside here ever since. Mrs. Sylvan Py was also a sister of Alexander, but, of course, her descendants do not bear the name of Henry. This name perhaps has a distinction not often boasted of by others in this respect, for in Lee county and even in the same village are to be found persons bearing the family name of "Henry" and three of them, neighbors, are not related in any way.

The early Frenchmen adapted themselves to the ways of the new world and applied themselves in such a manner as to become real industrious, a trait which is found in our present generation and so characteristic in their every-day life. We might say the greater portion of the French to be found in Lee county are farmers. A goodly number are found located in the villages following some mercantile pursuit and we are certain to find the rest of them continuing in some trade or profession, working out their livelihood. Some are politically inclined and have been very prominent in both our great parties during recent years. A son of Laurent Gehant, who arrived in America as we have seen in 1857, was elected to the General Assembly by the people of the thirty-fifth district in 1906 and served his people in such a way as to bring great credit to himself and his nationality. This person is Henry F. Gehant of West Brooklyn, and is one who is well known throughout the county today. He is the pioneer banker of the country town, opening the bank bearing his name in 1897 at West Brooklyn. This institution he has built up from year to year until now we find it one of the most important of its kind in that portion of the county. It has a capital of \$25,000 and deposits ranging from \$150,000 to \$200,000. Besides doing a general banking business its insurance department issues policies covering all the leading forms of insurance and deals in real estate and farm loans. This institution is perhaps one of the most successful of those started through French capital and enterprise, and stands as a



monument to the staunch character of those early Frenchmen as well as a monument to its founder. Mr. Gehant's two sons, Oliver L. and Henry W., are cashier and assistant cashier, respectively, of the bank. F. D. Gehant, a cousin of the founder, acted as cashier for a number of years, but retired from the banking business early in 1912, and is now engaged in the hardware and implement business in West Brooklyn. We have already seen that F. D. Gehant is a son of Claude Gehant, who was numbered among the very first of the French to settle in the county. His other brothers are located in various parts of the state, one of them, Arthur, still residing on the old homestead in Bradford. Besides Henry F. Gehant, Laurent Gehant has three sons and two daughters residing in or near West Brooklyn, namely, Frank J., Laurent, Andrew, Mrs. Sarah Jeanblanc, and Mrs. Melenda Edwards. Their daughter Leona, who accompanied her parents from France, died some thirty-five years ago, then being the wife of Joseph Chaon, another descendent of the early French arrivals. Most of Modest Gehant's children are still in the vicinity of West Brooklyn and are actively engaged in farming or have retired from the hard work and content themselves in supervising their farms. August Gehant, one of the sons, has been a prominent citizen of Viola township for many years. Like many of the others before him he married another descendant of those early Frenchmen, his wife being a granddaughter of John Bresson who arrived here in 1855, and constituted one of the party of sixteen coming together that year. Other Gehants to select wives who are descended from those early pioneer settlers were Henry F., who married a granddaughter of Ferdinando Py, Frank J., who married Victoria Henry, Laurent, who married Mary Henry, Frank D., who married a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leopold Henry or a granddaughter of John Bazel Henry.

The descendents of the Henry family are represented in the business calendar of Brooklyn township by Edward E. Henry, a son of Leopold Henry, who conducts a garage and is proprietor of a dram shop in West Brooklyn. He has two brothers residing in the vicinity who support the family name—Amel and Eugene, and a number of sisters, all of whom are married, but who still make this county their home. The Bernardins too are sharing the retail business burdens of West Brooklyn, for Julius and Henry are engaged in the implement and lumber business. Julius has Theodore Barlow as his partner in the implement business. He too is a descendent of those early Frenchmen. Another of the nation-

ality prominent in business in West Brooklyn is Prosper Gander, who came from France in later years and after stopping for a time in Pennsylvania. As related previously, Mr. Gander is the husband of Josephine Vincent, and they have one daughter. He is a mason contractor and very successfully conducts his chosen profession. The Vincents are all farmers with the exception of Eugene and Joseph, Sr., who have retired within the past fifteen years. We still find the wives of Delphan and Polite Bresson in Viola township in the midst of their sons and daughters, where they have continued to till the soil throughout all these years. Like the Vincents we find the Chaons still continuing the farm life and only in a few instances have the older members of the families retired and are living in town. Joseph Chaon and wife, he having been married a second time, reside in West Brooklyn. His brother Charles died a number of years ago, but is survived by his German wife and their children. A brother, Amadia Chaon, moved to Nebraska many years ago, while still another brother, August Chaon, died at his home in Viola. His family have since left the county and located in the Northwest.

The French language in this county is gradually, but surely, losing its identity. Through fifty years association with neighbors of every nationality the younger generation have lost all affection for the tongue of their ancestors and content themselves with the English language alone. Intermarriage has resulted in depleting the thoroughly French population by one-half, and it is safe to make the prediction that ere fifty years more have passed very few of the original French descendents will be recognizable in Lee county.

Perhaps the nationality being most intermingled with the French is the German. Many of Irish descent are also marrying into the French families so that in a few years more we will find our people to be not French, nor German, nor Irish, but descendents of a French and German marriage or an Irish and French marriage. Many from Switzerland too have migrated to our county and become identified with the local Frenchmen on account of speaking the same language. Chief among the Swiss we find the Wisers, the Bauers, and the Montavons, located here. Many would call them French, not knowing their original birthplace, and on account of their close semblance to the French are not distinguishable from them. The patriotic American spirit seizes every Frenchman soon after his arrival in this country, and a

Frenchman is an American regardless of his language when once he becomes settled on this side of the Atlantic.

It isn't French history that Frenchmen strive to create in America, although the Frenchman has been an important factor in American history making from the very beginning. The ancestors of some of the early French settlers in Lee county left their native land with General Lafayette and shed their life blood for American independence and for patriotic love of the struggling colonists in their fight for freedom from English tyranny. One needs but to read the early history of America to ascertain the debt of gratitude its citizens owe to the French race. Every individual aims to contribute his part to that great American history which every day, year after year, amazes the world and makes this nation the great leader of nations and draws to our flag the respect of every people in every clime. Let us not mourn the disappearance of the Frenchmen in Lee county, but feel glad to realize that they have mingled with those of every nationality to make a new history. Let us revere them for it and close with that deep sensitiveness within our breast that we owe to every patriotic and progressive American citizen for such they have, long years past, become and are today sharing their portion with the others of our great American people.





## CHAPTER X

### THE NORWEGIANS IN LEE COUNTY

The Norwegians have done much to develop the resources of Lee county and to bring the price of land to its present generous proportions. A strip of country in the east end of the county and extending over into DeKalb county, is so very largely settled by Norwegians that one may say it is owned by Norwegians. This strip is about ten miles long by about five miles wide and takes in Willow Creek, some of Reynolds and some of Ogle county on the north, and part of Milan to the east, in DeKalb county.

These hardy, industrious and ambitious people are said to settle always on nothing but the very best of land. In Lee county, that is true literally. The lands held by them in this county are of the very best and with their splendid improvements, command the highest prices.

The Norwegians are good homebuilders and without a single exception they are secure in the enjoyment of comfortable fortunes.

Most of them emigrated from Hardanger, in Norway. They learn the language readily, and while they love to cling to the mother tongue, they speak it only at home or when together.

Realizing that the younger generation may soon forget the old home ways and tongue, three years ago, a Hardanger society was formed of all the Hardangers in America. The first meeting was held at Sioux Falls, South Dakota. The second was held in Iowa and this year, the meeting was held at Lee in this county. From coast to coast almost, the loyal Hardangers flocked to Lee to visit for two days and depart for another year. Over 1,500 Hardangers met at Lee and they were housed and fed bountifully after the old home customs by the hospitable citizens of Lee and vicinity. This meeting was the most interesting of old country meetings I ever have attended. Norwegian dishes were served; beautiful Nor-

wegian songs were sung; folk-lore stories were repeated and a banquet was served at which speeches were made.

This notable gathering at Lee was held Wednesday and Thursday, September 17 and 18, 1913, and long will it be remembered.

The first Norwegian to come to Lee county, was Ommen Hillison, Americanized from Amund Helgeson, a Hardanger who left Norway in the year 1835. Like so many of his hardy countrymen, he was a sailor. Arrived on these shores, he made a few coastwise trips aboard ship, in fact until the year 1837.

In that year he walked from New York to Chicago with the avowed purpose of taking up land which he had heard was to be thrown open to settlement and sale, very soon. At Chicago, he heard of a little Norwegian settlement in LaSalle county on the banks of the Fox river, now known as Norway. To this point he walked.

On the way along the road he was overtaken by a team in which several men were seated, going out to enter land as they stated. When they overtook Mr. Hillison, they invited him to get in and ride, which he did at once with the expression of many thanks.

But it took no time at all to discover that the men in the wagon were members of a gang of desperadoes, and that so soon as the first auspicious moment should arrive they proposed to rob him. He attempted to get out but between protestations, and almost force, he was prevented. Biding his time patiently, the moment arrived at last when he found himself enabled to jump out. Throwing off the mask, the men tried to catch him, but he escaped and duly reached the Norway settlement.

In that year, 1837, the Inlet settlement was enjoying a boom notwithstanding the panicky times everywhere present in financial matters. The land was reputed to be of the very best and but little of it had been taken up and "deeded." As a matter of fact when he reached "The Inlet," not an acre of the country had been thrown into market, but it was expected to come in any day.

Mr. Hillison walked to Bradford township. Almost the first piece of land he looked at, pleased him, and comfortably with custom, he proceeded to hedge it about with evidences of a claim, which were respected in those days.

To get some more money, he worked for the settlers in the vicinity for wages which would raise a laugh to repeat at this point, until by saving every penny, he felt himself able to go ahead to make his first crop and abide its harvest.

His first evidence of establishing a claim was to erect a sod house on the quarter section which he enjoyed as his home until his death in the year 1854. Subsequently he erected a frame house near by which by reason of its elevation was a sort of landmark for the traveler for great distances around.

This house attracted a family named Reinhart, then passing Melugin's Grove further east on the Chicago road and the father drove to it and passed the night with Ommen.

One member of that family, Miss Catherine E. Reinhart, attracted the eye of the young bachelor, and subsequently they were married. In 1850, Henry W. Hillison, was born of that marriage, the first Norwegian child to be born in Lee county. Mr. Hillison lives today not far from the original homestead. And that homestead is situated just across the road, north from the home farm of Reinhart Aschenbrenner, another son of Mrs. Hillison, by a subsequent marriage, and Reinhart Aschenbrenner owns the same old homestead today, one of the best pieces of land in Bradford township and in Lee county.

Ommen's glowing accounts written back home attracted other Hardanger friends, especially those from Sofjorden, and they began coming to this country, invariably reaching Ommen's house as an objective point. From ones and twos the numbers increased, in each instance, the Hillison home receiving and directing the strangers into new homes and as the sequel proved, very profitable ones. Not one of them left Lee county, and thus in course of time, Lee county, and later, the village of Lee became the focal point for the Hardanger emigrant and from Lee the younger generation went out into Iowa, Wisconsin, the Dakotas, Minnesota until their number now is legion. Lee is regarded with almost as much veneration as the mother country.

Among the party first to come to Lee county, were Lars Larson Risetter, the richest man in the county, when in 1907, he died, Lars Helgeson (Hillison) Maakestad, Helge Helgesen, Ingeborg Helgesdatter, a sister of the last named who married Lars Olson Espe, Lars Olson Espe, Sjur Arneson Bly, Torgels Knudson Maakestad, Lars Larson Bly and Gertrude Helgestadder Lonning.

From New York city, this little colony went up the river to Albany in the year 1847; by rail they went on to Buffalo; by lake they continued on to Chicago where Ommen Hillison met them and brought them direct to his house in Bradford township, and an ox team from Chicago was the mode of transportation. They stopped over at Norway.

Subsequently Bly returned to Chicago. Ingeborg returned for awhile to Norway, but subsequently she rejoined the Lee county colony.

From the home of Onnmen, these young men scattered, some to go to Sublette township; Lars Larson Risetter was among the number, others to Lee Center township and so on, to any place not far away, to work and earn money with which to take up land. The first ambition was to become a landholder and a home builder. In making the trip from Norway, Lars Larson Risetter became the second Norwegian to enter Lee county and he truly was a remarkable man. With his first money he bought land and built a log cabin on it. This was in Bradford township. Later he sold the place to a German who had come to join the thrifty class of emigrants who had began to settle in Bradford, and he removed over to the East End country, Alto township, to which point he has been followed by almost every Norwegian of Lee county and now Lee is the center of the colony.

With every dollar Risetter got, he bought land, the very best land in the world. At his death he was buried at the Norwegian Lutheran church a mile and a half southwest of Lee. His estate footed up almost three quarters of a million of dollars.

His two sons live at present in Beloit, Wisconsin, but very soon they expect to return to Lee.

Espe who came over with Lars Larson Risetter was a carpenter, and soon after his marriage, he built a frame house, the second to be built by a Norwegian in Lee county.

Lars Larson Risetter's log cabin was the third house to be built by a Norwegian. It was a log cabin and was built in a single day.

The first Norwegian to settle in Willow Creek, was Amund Hillison Lonning, the second son of Helge and Ingeleif Amundson, who was born at South Bergen, Stift, Norway, June 20, 1821. At home his first year's wage was five dollars and clothing. He went to work in Sublette township where Lars Larson Risetter's brother-in-law was working, and he entered the employ of Thomas Fessenden at \$11 per month. In 1852 he bought for \$200 the northeast quarter of section 15 in Willow Creek township, but still hired out for five years after that. In 1855 he began improving his land. In 1857 he married Ingeborg Larson Maland, who in 1855 had emigrated to Sublette. On June 25, 1896, he died. Mrs. Hillison (Lonning) died Dec. 16, 1866.

On the same ship with Mr. Hillison (Lonning) last mentioned, there came to America, two splendid young Norwegians, named



Ole Vasvig and Omman Hill. These two young men took land north of Franklin on what subsequently became known as "Norwegian Hill," by reason of the tragedy which befell the young men. They lived together in a log cabin. Under the bed they kept their little hoard in a box.

One night men broke into the house and with their own axe killed both the young men in a shockingly brutal fashion. Indications pointed out that one was killed while asleep, but the other awakening and trying to defend himself was struck down dead at last.

Several arrests were made for this shocking murder, along about 1854, but nothing ever came of them. The box was fingered by the bandits, as their bloody finger prints disclosed, but so far as could be ascertained, none of its contents had been taken.

The records which have been preserved, show the emigration from Norway to Lee county to have been as follows:

In 1851, Haldor Nelson Horland, Jacob Olson Rogde, living at Lee today, Haakon L. Risetter, brother of Lars Larson Risetter, Agatha Oldsdatter Espe, sister to L. O. Espe.

In 1854 there arrived Amund O. Kragsvig, Wiglik P. Pederson Akre, Helge Pederson Maakestad, Johannes Pederson, Agatha Maakestad, Jacob Pederson Blye, Helge Blye, Elsa Pedersdatter Blye, Christopher C. Kvalnes (Qualnes).

In 1856 there came Sjur Qualnes, Jens C. Qualnes, Martha Qualnes, Brita Oldsdatter Kvaestad, John Johnson Maakestad and Christian Sexe.

In 1857 came Elias O. Espe, Peter O. Espe, Thomas Helgeson Lomming and wife, Synva, Amund Sexe, Halsdur G. Maakestad, Viking Gosendal and Einar Winterton.

In 1858 came Ingeborg Oldsdatter Eide, Einar Einarson Buer and wife, Johanna, Lars Salomonson Risetter and wife, Ragnilda, Sven Isberg, Einar Vasvig, Margretha Sandven, Ormond O. Lomning and wife, Christie, Hans Strand.

In 1859 came, Ingebrigt Qualnes, Gyrie Qualnes, Sigri Qualnes, Christopher Ingebrigtson Qualnes, Gynie Qualnes and wife, nee Rogde, and Peder Tjoflaat and family. In 1860 came Nels Peder Maakestad.

In 1861 came Ole J. Prestegaard, now one of the richest men in the county, Lars Pederson Maakestad, Jacob Ophheim, Arne Ophheim, Lars Aga, Ole Aga, Daniel Wignes and Viking Winterton.

In 1865 came Peder P. Hill and Kleng Osmondson.

In 1866 came Conrad Knudson, Peder O. Hill.

But when I come down later, space forbids further details. Those hardy old pioneers, coming from a country teeming with roses, have made the east end of Lee county blossom as the rose indeed. Most of them are gone now, but the children, who still occupy the old homesteads, keep up the pretty old home customs in their home life.

The Norwegians of Lee county are a very temperate, religious people. Both Willow Creek and Alto are dry towns notwithstanding the fact there are two villages in Willow Creek, Lee and Scarborough. Nearly every Norwegian has a beautiful voice and the settlement is musical morning, noon and night.

Off a mile and a half to the southwest, they have built a beautiful church. Just to indicate the musical tendency, in this church, out in the country, a \$1,800 pipe organ has been installed. Just now too, the choir consists of fifteen voices; four sopranos, three altos, four tenors, four bass voices.

The cemetery is close at hand and clustered around the church so dearly loved in life, the men and the women who took this country as a wilderness and brought it into a wealthy community, are lying. One noticeable feature of this cemetery is the exquisite care taken of it and the respect shown the memory of the dead by the erection of so many handsome monuments.

Over to the northwest, another Norwegian Lutheran church has been built, and like the other to the southwest, it is crowded with worshippers every Sunday. Eight voices compose the choir in this beautiful church.

Another very noticeable feature of this Norwegian settlement is making itself felt and that is the universal custom of sending all the children to school, then to the college or the university. In one family, I found three sons, all college professors, one in Harvard, one at Northwestern, Evanston, and the other at another noted college which for the moment I have forgotten.

The bank at Lee is owned largely by the Norwegians around the place; they control it. Its cashier, Mr. F. A. Bach, told me that they held a majority of its stock. It was organized so late as Nov. 11, 1903. Now its deposits are above \$200,000.

At the present moment, Lee is under village government. Mr. S. M. Maakestad is the mayor, and a very efficient one too. The aldermen are Barney Jacobsen, George Beels, Sr., Marshall Edwards, L. A. Plant, Oliver Halsne and Robert G. Nowe. The treasurer is F. A. Bach and the clerk is Kimmie A. Ostewig, who

has contributed much about the history of the east end of Lee county for this book.

The merchants largely are Norwegians and they enjoy a wonderful prosperity.

Lee believes in municipal ownership to a large extent. The village owns its own water plant and it has the very best of fire protection. Hydrants have been placed all over the city limits and a village fire department, of which Henry Eide is chief, has kept the damage done by fires down to a trifle ever since the system was installed.

In the year 1902 the place was visited by a devastating fire; it burned down the best part of the town. But with characteristic spirit the merchants replaced those burned, with splendid new brick buildings, and today Lee owns the best buildings of any of the smaller villages in Lee county.

It has a splendid electric light service, day and night up to midnight. Every inch of town lot space has a neat cement walk in front of it. The streets are kept with exquisite cleanliness.

One unusual condition exists in Lee—the county line runs right through the middle of the main street so that the west and larger part of the place is in Lee county and the eastern part is in DeKalb county. And for all these commendable conditions, the Norwegians of Lee county are to be thanked.

In this day of the motor car, Lee is nothing behind. There are 150 machines tributary to Lee and Lee contains the largest garage and machine shops for repairing autos, in the county. Its proprietor, Swan Ostewig, draws trade in welding and vulcanizing, from a distance of thirty miles.

I have taken considerable space to mention the village of Lee, because it is an unusual place, surrounded by an unusual people.

There are of course some big farmers, Americans and Germans, notably, J. M. Herrmann, a director of the bank at Lee, but the Norwegian very large preponderates in the east end of Lee county.









THE DIXON BAR IN 1868

## CHAPTER XI

### THE BENCH AND THE BAR OF OLD LEE COUNTY

It is with emotions of pleasure I take my typewriter in hand to begin the story of the legal fraternity of Lee county.

Nearly all of my young life was spent, as deputy circuit clerk, in close touch with the lawyers of Lee county. And what a glorious flood of recollections sweeps over me the moment I try to select the first one to mention! They almost kill themselves in the stampede to find expression first.

Lee county always has had a strong bar. From Edward Southwick, the first lawyer, down to the present moment, the lawyers of Lee have been known all over the state as men of great ability.

The lawyers of Lee have been a fearless lot of men too. How well do I remember the day the late Bernard H. Trusdell made a speech to a jury which was one of the most remarkable on record.

A certain community which he represented had been over-ridden by a lawless lot of hoodlums. They had terrorized the community until quiet, law abiding citizens became desperate and they called upon Bernard H. Trusdell to bring the culprits to justice. Mr. Trusdell secured the indictment of certain members of the gang who had been especially vicious and Mr. Trusdell followed the case into association with the states attorney to give the prosecution the benefit of his legal mind as well as the benefits of his personal feelings in the case.

When he came to conclude the arguments for the prosecution, did he appeal to those jurors to do their duty? Did he approach those twelve men in meekness, begging them to bestow a favor on the community? Did his words indicate that small favors might be accepted from that jury by way of compromise in case of a possible disagreement? Never! In conclusion, he raised a clenched fist; his eyes were aflame with indignation at the law-

lessness of the defendants and he told that jury something like this: "The members of this community were presented with two ways to treat this case. One was a prosecution in court; the other was to administer the law themselves. They have chosen the former and now we expect you to do your duty as jurors. If you don't then I'll be one to shoulder a musket and with others, to settle it the other way."

That jury gave the defendants the limit and never more was that community molested by that or any other gang of law breakers.

And what red letter days were those when Mr. B. H. Trusdell locked horns with his brother, Abram K. Trusdell, today the patriarch of Lee county's lawyers! Brilliant, profound, fearless, tactful, forceful, by the time these two giants had finished their case, nothing had been overlooked; not a single question of fact; not a line of law had been forgotten. They gave and took. Sometimes they rested on the verdict, but more often, the case was followed until the court of last resort had declared for one or the other.

I have heard the old prosecutor, McCartney, of Sterling, say that when the Messrs. Trusdell were arrayed on opposite sides of a case, that that case was the best tried case he ever had heard and for one, he derived great profit in listening to the trial.

I dwell upon the names of these two gentlemen, not because they were so gentle and kind to me, who as a boy was charged with responsibilities which if neglected, would rightly subject me to severe criticisms, but because they were grand lawyers.

How many times have I seen them peep over my shoulder in a pleasant, friendly way, to see if my summonses and writs were issued correctly! Not in a critical, pretentious, pedantic sort of way to rattle me and then open on me with a battery of verbal artillery they knew so well how to level at an opponent, but as friends. The older, Mr. B. H., was a man of magnificent physique; of commanding appearance and yet with me, his gentle ways always were suggestive, accompanied with his laying his arm lightly across my shoulders; he never was impatient with me. And for the other, Mr. Abram K., what cannot I say? My preceptor! How faithfully he tutored me! How pleasantly he corrected my atrocious answers to hypothetical questions! How patiently too he guided my hand through the intricacies of instructions and other documents! And then there came the day when I must go to Ottawa for the bar examination! With the same fatherly interest, although



pressed for time, he left business to go with me to Ottawa and dress up my courage at critical times. And all for me, a boy of trifling abilities, heedless, inappreciative and slovenly. And too, he never credited that important trip as one designed for my benefit. The rather, he made the remark casually that he too must go to Ottawa to make some motions. It is true he made many motions before the Supreme court on that momentous day, but the trip was made for my benefit; to see me through and he never left my presence until the ordeal was passed and we had returned home.

Those were the men who made the Lee county bar famous. Such men gave it a name that must remain imperishable. Men afraid of no odds in a legal controversy, and yet in the midst of a battle who could say to a little boy: "May I trouble you just a minute to hand me the files in this case?" How too would those older Lee county lawyers play jokes on one another; like boys almost. I can remember one occasion when John Stevens, the writer's father, was compelled to go to Springfield on a case pending before the Supreme court. Edward Southwick was of the party. Southwick was very dark. Southwick and Stevens were partners at the time too, but when Mendota had been reached, and the passengers had gone into the dining room for dinner, Stevens whispered in the ear of the landlord that a separate table should be provided for Southwick. No specific reason was given more than to nod and make a remark about his complexion. When Southwick attempted to take a chair with his companions, the landlord took him by the arm and very gently hinted that he had provided a separate table for his colored guests. How the profanity did fly from Lawyer Southwick!

Perhaps I'd better not repeat the story of the bet John Stevens made with E. B. Stiles at a banquet, to the effect that he, Stevens, could eat Stiles' oysters. Nor had I better tell the reason why he was able to win. I may say, however, that Stevens won his bet and ate Stiles' oysters.

Even the good old circuit judges knew how to laugh. Can anyone ever forget the trial of that same E. B. Stiles for maintaining a nuisance in the form of a hog pen on Third street, right in the midst of a dense population? For reasons best known to himself, Stiles defended himself without the assistance of counsel. He appeared armed with a very exhaustive brief from which he quoted when he wished to emphasize a point. That famous brief was written by that prince of wits, Benjamin F. Shaw.

A man named Tooke, a nice old gentleman, had the habit of asking for so many favors for his "Dixon Seminary" that he had made himself tiresome to many. Stiles, when he had reached a particularly strong point, affirmed his flight of oratory by opening his brief with great dignity and begging permission to refer to "Tooke on Bores."

Did Judge Heaton fine the defendant for contempt? Never! Like any other human being he laughed a good old-fashioned laugh that nearly split his fat sides. Aaron L. Porter, twice or thrice sheriff, once had an experience with a wheelbarrow, and right under the observation of that same Judge Heaton, and later in the trial when Stiles had a particularly obstinate bit of law to overcome, he opened up his brief again and asked the court to refer to "Porter on Barrows." Verily, never did court or counsel or defendant present a day of such delicious humor as the celebrated Stiles Hog Case, in which the jury acquitted the defendant and at the same time presented him with a purse of a dozen pennies with which to hire a lawyer for the next offense.

From the very beginning of things, the services of Lee county lawyers were sought to go great distances to fight desperate cases. When the old Indian chief, Shabbona, found himself helpless to combat the plots and counter plots of Bogus Gates and his coterie of experts, it was Edward Southwick whose services were sought by the old chief. And Southwick went over to Shabbona's home in DeKalb county and cleaned out the Gates crowd so effectually that no member of it ever dared annoy Shabbona thereafter.

While William Smith, brother of the Mormon prophet, resided in Lee county, he had been quick to perceive the abilities of the lawyers of Lee county, so that when Joseph and Hyrum Smith were thrown into the Carthage jail, S. G. Patrick and Edward Southwick, were sent for, post-haste, to defend them. Of course it is well known that the Smiths were shot without a trial, and before Patrick and Southwick could reach Carthage; but the point is illustrated when the fact has been stated that Lee county lawyers were sought, when what might have been the biggest case of the state's history, was likely to be tried.

For a time, I was unable to determine who the first lawyer was to locate in Lee county. Until the September term, 1842, when attorneys appeared for clients, the clerk did not name them; but at that time, when a new penmanship appeared on the records, the record writer began the custom of writing his records thus: "And now comes the plaintiff by ———, his attorney."

Nevertheless, at the first term of the circuit court, begun on the third Monday of April, 1840, quite unintentionally perhaps, I found the name of Edward Southwick, associated with W. W. Fuller, attorneys for the defendant sheriff in the case of Charles H. Capman versus Aaron Wakelee. I. N. Balestier was attorney for the plaintiff. The latter was a Peoria lawyer, Fuller was an Oregon lawyer and Southwick was a Dixon lawyer. This led me to believe Southwick was the first lawyer. Just when he came to Dixon is unknown, but it must have been about the year 1836, because he was admitted to the bar of Illinois Nov. 25, 1836. Subsequent correspondence proves incontestibly that he was Lee county's first lawyer.

On Nov. 4, 1840, Edward Southwick appeared in court, and on his motion, William W. Heaton was admitted to practice, and so was Walter Merriman, who does not seem to be known as a Lee county lawyer. This would make him the second lawyer. Shepard G. Patrick was admitted to practice, on the records of the clerk of the Supreme court, March 29, 1842, and the first time I found his name on the Lee county records, was under date May 4, 1843, when as senior member of the firm Patrick & Noble, he appeared in the Lee circuit court.

In the records for May 6, 1843, I find the name of Cyrus Chamberlain, as master in chancery of Lee county. If he was a lawyer he would come next to Southwick, but no evidence exists that he ever practiced. Lorenzo Wood, who was admitted in Michigan, came to Dixon in 1842. Although his name always was included as a member of the bar, he never practiced. The same may be said of Roberts, of Roberts and Mackay. On Sept. 11, 1843, I find also that Edward Southwick appeared in court and on his motion, John V. Eustace was admitted to practice.

Southwick seems to have led in practice from the beginning, his name appearing in four-fifths of all the cases, as attorney for one side or the other. Other names, most of them unfamiliar, are Edwin R. Mason, S. A. Mason, Chase (was it George or Charles?), May, Kellogg, Fraser, Wallace, Evans, Wells, states attorney. From the appearance of the dockets, one must decide that litigation was common. I found one case whose term number was 111.

But, to begin with, the first term of court, held in the school-house on the third Monday of April, 1840, was presided over by Judge Dan Stone, of Galena. He will be remembered as the member of the Legislature, who with Lincoln, signed what was designed to be a protest against a slavery resolution, passed by the lower



House. Aaron Wakelee, was sheriff; Shelton L. Hall, circuit attorney and George W. Chase, clerk. The grand and petit jurors, selected by the county commissioners and mentioned in another place, with few exceptions, appeared and were sworn in. Those of the grand jury panel, who did not appear, were Noah Bedee, David H. Birdsall and Peter T. Scott, and Judge Stone entered a rule on them to show cause why they should not be fined for contempt. I cannot find where they were fined, which makes it probable that they purged themselves.

Lee was attached to the Sixth judicial circuit Jan. 15, 1840, and the times for holding courts were fixed for the third Mondays of April and September. The bonds of George W. Chase, clerk, \$2,000; Samuel Johnson, coroner, \$2,000 and Aaron Wakelee, sheriff, \$2,000, were brought into court and approved.

There must have been at least forty-one cases on the first docket, because one of that number, Charles Franks vs. Thomas H. March, bill for injunction, was reached.

The first case on the docket was John M. Kinzie, the famous Chicago man of the early days, vs. William Wilkinson, appealed from Smith Gilbraith, a justice of the peace. It seems that Kinzie appeared at neither trial and so he was called in open court three times, and failing to appear, his appeal was dismissed, and the judgment of the court below, according to the practice of that day, was affirmed. A procedendo was issued and the costs taxed—the first case in the fee book—were \$4.17½.

While the Kinzie case was first on the docket, case number five (5) was the first case in which a motion was made, at that term, entitled, William F. Bradshaw vs. James Dacey and Daniel Carpenter. Defendants asked to have the case dismissed, and the motion was overruled.

Seven indictments were returned by the grand jury; the first was against Zachariah Phillips for keeping a gaming house; the second was against the same party for keeping a billiard table; the third was against Jude W. Hamilton, for selling liquor without a license; the fifth was against Caleb Tallmage (shades of Blackstone and Kent! It was Deacon Tallmage!) for selling liquor without a license; sixth, John and Joshua Cutshaw, for selling liquor without license, and seventh against John B. Wilson, for forgery, counterfeiting and passing counterfeit money.

Hamilton, with a man named Chapman, ran a store in the original John Dixon house in 1836. Their establishment was the first opened in Dixon. He is also reputed to have built the first



frame building in Dixon, a little affair which sat close to the east wall of the brick building on the alley, First street, between Ottawa and Galena avenues, owned by George Downing and occupied by the American Express Company and another tenant.

Hamilton was found guilty and fined \$10 and costs. Tallmage was found not guilty. The Cutshaws gave bond for their appearance and then defaulted it.

At this term of court, the first "first" naturalization papers were issued to Nelson Thurston, who declared his intention to become a citizen.

A special term was called for the first Monday of November, 1840, at which the cases on the docket had run up to at least one hundred and eleven.

Our old friend Frederick R. Dutcher, cut considerable of a figure at this term of court. He and Smith Gilbraith were the two justices of the peace, elected at the first election held for the purpose and it seems he married a couple without having a marriage license. The circumstance must have cut a great figure in contemporaneous history, because he was indicted three times at this term and once in May, 1843; but he got away from it all after considerable litigation. A party named Knowlton was his attorney. On Sept. 19, 1842, Michael Fellows, our first recorder, first appears on record. He was made deputy circuit clerk on that day by G. W. Chase, the clerk.

In 1856, James K. Edsall, who subsequently became Attorney-General of the state, came to Dixon from Kansas, where he had been a member of the Legislature.

In August, 1855, a directory printed in a newspaper called the Daily Whisper, contained the following list of Dixon lawyers: F. R. Danna, John Stevens, John V. Eustace, Heaton and Ather-ton, J. D. Mackay, S. G. Patrick, Frederick A. Soulé and Edward Southwick. Lorenzo Wood should be included, although he and Danna nor Soulé practiced actively. Wood, however, in 1849, had his sign out in Dixon, as a lawyer.

In 1845, a correspondent writing for a Rockford paper, made the statement that there were six lawyers in Dixon. They were so far as known Edward Southwick, S. G. Patrick, Silas Noble, William W. Heaton, John V. Eustace and Lorenzo Wood.

John V. Eustace later, in 1856, became a member of the Legislature. He introduced a bill making a new circuit, which was passed and he became judge of that circuit from the ranks of Lee county attorneys. He served until 1861, when Judge William W.

Heaton was elected. When the law establishing the appellate courts was passed, Judge Heaton was appointed to the appellate bench and became the first presiding judge for the first, Chicago, district. He died in 1878, while in office and Judge John V. Eustace was elected to fill the vacancy. Judge Eustace died in office and Judge John D. Crabtree was elected to the office and very soon was elevated to the appellate bench for the second district. He too died in office and Judge Farrand was elected to the office which he has held ever since. Thus it will be seen Lee county has furnished a circuit judge ever since the year 1856, and an appellate court judge for two of the districts of the state.

From the Lee county bar, Solomon Hicks Bethea was made a judge of the United States district court, in Chicago. Sherwood Dixon, S. H. Bethea, Charles B. Morrison and William B. Sterling, all occupied the position of United States district attorney, the first three for the northern district of Illinois and the last named for the State of South Dakota.

William Barge too was one of the big lawyers of Illinois. He enjoyed a very large practice and was known the state over as a lawyer of great learning and power. To come to the present bar of Lee county, it ranks as it always has ranked. The present dean is Abram K. Trusdell, who has retired from active work to enjoy a competency he has reserved from a large and active practice. The firm name is Trusdell, Smith and Leech. Mr. Clyde Smith has fought and won in the highest courts, and that too, lately, some of the most important cases which have come before them. Mr. William L. Leech, the junior partner, resides in Amboy.

In the celebrated Miller case, Mr. Clyde Smith won the distinction of securing in the laws of evidence, a new rule, of such importance and potency that not only has it been adopted as a leading case on "handwriting," but all text books have incorporated it in their new editions. The law schools too teach evidence of "handwriting by comparison," from the principles Mr. Smith established in the Miller case. This case today enjoys as much fame as the celebrated "rule in Shelley's case" enjoyed of old.

Hiram A. Brooks and Clarence C. Brooks, as Brooks & Brooks, enjoy an extensive business. Mr. H. A. Brooks is regarded as one of the strongest trial lawyers in Illinois at this period. J. W. Watts, who is the head of the law school, is most deeply learned in the law, and he is known far and wide. The graduates from his law school occupy important positions before the bar in half the states of the Union and several others are upon the state and

national benches. Still others are today United States attorneys. Recently the alumni of his school formed themselves into a society and many met in Dixon to enjoy a banquet.

Henry S. Dixon and George C. Dixon, as Dixon & Dixon, sons of Sherwood Dixon and great grandsons of John Dixon, occupy prominent positions as lawyers. Their father was recognized as one of the foremost lawyers of his time, and they enjoy the heritage of that name as well as the support and confidence of a large client-age, made up largely of big corporations, like the Illinois Central and Northwestern steam railroads and the local Intra Mural Surface railroad between Dixon and Sterling, as well as our big Illinois Northern Utilities Company. As successors of the firm Dixon (Sherwood) & Bethea, Morrison & Bethea, and Morrison, Bethea & Dixon (H. S.), Messrs. Dixon & Dixon came into a fine practice. One thing is most remarkable about these firms; Sherwood Dixon, S. H. Bethea and Charles B. Morrison, in the order named, were made United States district attorneys for the northern district of Illinois, from continuations of the same partnership. Edward H. Brewster is in the enjoyment of a splendid practice. Associated with him is his brother, Charles W. The former was states attorney and is the legal adviser of the cement company, the biggest of its kind in the country. When big corporations want good lawyers they have been in the habit of selecting Dixon lawyers. For years Mr. John E. Erwin has taken the position of a leading criminal lawyer of Illinois. During the past year he has handled three of the most noted criminal cases of the state. Two of them were desperate. Probably for blood curdling atrocity, the Doctor Webster case will rank first for long years to come and in each case he not only got his men off with their lives, but in one instance he secured the liberty of his client.

Lee county has been fortunate in its public prosecutors, especially with Messrs. Charles B. Morrison, Edward H. Brewster, Charles H. Wooster and Harry Edwards. These gentlemen made great reputations. Mr. Wooster lives in Amboy and he enjoys one of the largest practices in the county. George P. Goodwin was another of the old time big lawyers of Lee county. When he became commissioner of the land department for the Chicago and Northwestern railroad, he left active practice. On his death, Judge Crabtree took the position, but preferring active practice he returned to Dixon and later was elected state Senator and then circuit judge.



James K. Edsall was elected state Senator first and that office was made the stepping stone to the more important one of Attorney-General which he held for two terms. In that office he made a great name as a lawyer and in the United States Supreme court records, his name will be found associated with some of the noted Illinois litigation. While in Dixon he was employed by the son of Lewis Clapp to fight the will of that testator. Judge Eustace presided and he decided in favor of Mr. Edsall's contention to the effect that an executor could not be endowed with the discretionary power given in this will. Thus an estate of something like half a million dollars, passed to the son instead of to the erection of an agricultural college. Lewis Clapp, at his death, was the richest man in Lee county.

For careful and very able effort in the management of cases, Messrs. Wingert & Wingert have no superiors before this or any other bar. Their defense, last summer, of Dr. S. M. Green, indicted for manslaughter, was generally admitted to be one of the masterpieces of trial work. The jury acquitted Doctor Green. But whatever the case may be, common law, chancery or criminal, they are the same clear, close and able men and by the time the case has been digested, it is safe to say not one solitary point has escaped their observation and study. The statement that they are splendid lawyers will bear repetition many times.

John P. Devine is walking rapidly to the front as a lawyer of the first abilities. Last year he was elected representative in the General Assembly and what is unusual for a new member, he was placed upon the most important committees in the House. To him Governor Dunne looked for support in the many trying emergencies which arose and in not one single instance did Mr. Devine err in judgment or waver in his support of the Governor's efforts to pass reform bills. His remarkable record has given him a commanding popularity and influence in the state.

Albert H. Hammeken, one of the younger members of the bar, has reached a strong position in a marvelously short period. His practice already reaches the volume that many of the old time practitioners never realized to their very last days.

At one time in his career, a criminal had been charged with the commission of an offence from which no escape seemed possible. He had participated in the theft of a valuable automobile. He had been caught red handed. In assigning him counsel, it was assumed as a matter of course he would be convicted and so would make a fit subject for one of the younger lawyers to practice on.



Accordingly Mr. Hanneken was selected. To everybody's astonishment he selected his jury with a discretion and a vim that indicated a fight of the first magnitude. Over a day was consumed in the trial of the case and when the jury returned their verdict, it acquitted Mr. Hanneken's client and convicted the co-defendant. Other incidents at the same term happened, just as important and to the average layman, just as unusual. That ended abruptly, Mr. Hanneken's apprenticeship and today he occupies a position which is impregnable.

City Attorney Mark C. Keller, by reason of a long list of special assessment cases, and the successful management of them, has won the reputation of being one of the strongest lawyers of the bar. It is his privilege to boast that he never has been beaten in one of his cases.

Mr. Grover W. Gehant is the youngest member of the bar today. In most instances it is the experience of young lawyers to wait long and patiently for business. Mr. Gehant is a notable exception to this rule. In less than a year's time he found himself engaged in some of the biggest cases on the calendar. By reason of the long illness of Mr. A. C. Bardwell, the master in chancery, in whose office Mr. Gehant had become installed, it fell to his lot to unravel some of the knottiest problems the chancery docket presented and he did it in a masterful way. Net results: he was immersed in business immediately.

I cannot overlook Arthur G. Harris, John B. Crabtree and William H. Winn.

Our youngest lawyer is John J. Armstrong; but he is the best developed youngster in this county of Lee.

Judge Robert H. Scott, county judge, never has sought active practice. He has contented himself with his official duties.

Messrs. A. C. and Henry C. Warner enjoy the largest probate practice in the circuit. The senior member in his younger days was deputy county and circuit clerk and deputy treasurer and it is not saying too much to pronounce him the best probate lawyer in Northern Illinois.

And here is another phenomenon which the Lee county bar presents. I may safely challenge any other county to reproduce another such instance.

Down in the southeast township of this county a little village of perhaps six hundred souls, stands. It is surrounded by a land virtually flowing in milk and honey. Its people are wealthy, almost to the last person.

In that contented, law-abiding community is stationed Charles F. Preston, the lawyer who enjoys the most lucrative practice in Lee county. By sheer ability, honesty, sobriety and industry, he has won this brilliant distinction and I beg to assert that he has met for years, foemen worthy any warrior's steel. Three counties, Lee, LaSalle and DeKalb, pay tribute to him almost reverentially.

Purposely I have reserved this place for one of the best loved men who ever lived in this community. The first letter of his name is the first in the alphabet, and I suppose I should have begun with him. As one of the very first of our citizens, I suppose I should have selected his name as number one. As a continuous resident of Dixon since 1854, how may I excuse this delay? In delaying this little reference, I may have shown wretched taste. But I am sure the reader will not convict me.

Jason C. Ayres has been a member of the Lee county bar for long years. He never has practiced actively, because of the large interests which year after year have engaged his attention otherwise.

Nevertheless, he never has permitted himself to get beyond hailing distance from his brothers.

He is president of the Dixon National Bank. He is a large real-estate holder. In the process of building up his large fortune, others reposed such confidence in him and his judgment that drafts for amounts almost unlimited, drawn by Mr. Ayres, would have been honored at sight. Of such men, the Lee county bar and the Lee county people are proud.

Thirty-seven years ago a couple of youngsters from Lee county presented themselves before the Supreme court for the bar examination. Their pulses ran high. They passed. Both live in Lee county today. One lives in Amboy, one in Dixon. The first is my very dear old friend, J. E. Lewis, tried and true and generous; the dean of Amboy's lawyers. And there too may be found Charles H. Wooster, P. M. James, Charles E. Ives and William L. Leech, able, strong, successful; the two Charlies—boyhood friends as true as steel.

Numbers never made things better. Amboy ranks second to Dixon numerically, but in Amboy will be found a little city with as many loyal, royal people, man for man, as in any community under the sun, and of those people, you will pardon me if, with my lifetime of association with J. E. Lewis, Charles H. Wooster and Charles E. Ives, members of the Lee county bar, I am drawn a

little closer towards them and reserve for them a few more words, before I say good bye.

## ATTORNEYS OF THE LEE COUNTY BAR

Charles E. Ives, P. M. James, J. E. Lewis, William L. Leech, S. B. Pool, Charles H. Wooster, Amboy; Jason C. Ayres, A. C. Bardwell, E. H. Brewster, Charles W. Brewster, Hiram A. Brooks, C. C. Brooks, John B. Crabtree, Henry S. Dixon, George C. Dixon, John P. Devine, John E. Erwin, Harry Edwards, Grover W. Gehant, M. J. Gannon, Jr., A. G. Harris, A. H. Hamneken, Mark C. Keller, A. W. Leland, Charles B. Morrison, J. F. Palmer, W. F. Preston, Clyde Smith, Robert H. Scott, J. O. Shaulis, Harvey Sindlinger, A. K. Trusdell, A. C. Warner, J. W. Watts, E. E. Wingert, William H. Winn, Henry C. Warner, Dixon; J. W. McHale, Charles F. Preston, Paw Paw.





## CHAPTER XII

### THE LEE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES AND FAIRS

With the fluctuations of human interest and the caprice of the people who raise up interesting features and then when surfeited, like an old plaything, throw them away, the county fair may be classed as a creature created and reared and supported in luxury, and then abandoned. Twice since the first society was started July 14, 1858, it has languished and has been revived, the last time by the citizens of Amboy, under whose fostering care it seems likely to live on forever, as it should, because the county fair is an institution of the greatest value to a community as an educator and as a playground. During the infancy of the county, William H. Van Epps was the tower of strength which supported the first fairs ever held in Lee county.

Mr. Van Epps was a man of great wealth, of boundless enthusiasm when it came to matters of agriculture or the welfare of Dixon and Lee county. He was the first president of the first fair association and his energy made the old fairs the tremendous successes that they were.

Who is there who can remember back into the fifties, who will forget the old fair grounds located just eastward from the cemetery? The eastern portion of the present cemetery was once the western extreme of that old fair ground. Even well along into the sixties the old fair grounds were mighty familiar to the people of the county and to every school child as well.

In those days it was the custom to admit the children to the fair on the big day, during each session and to the most of us those days were the red letter days of our lives. The side shows then were part of the fair. The barker flourished in all his luxuriousness. The sword swallower delighted the kids; the snake charmer either

frightened or awed them into dreadful silence. The fat woman and the fortune teller lured the unwary or delighted the unsophisticated. Oh! What glorious old days those were to us kids!

And don't you remember the day the body of the jewelry peddler was found in the woods by boys in a sad state of decomposition? The poor fellow was murdered by his partner. They went into the woods to cut crotched supports for their tent stall and after the supports had been cut, the axe was used to cleave his skull, and so the poor fellow was buried where his decayed body was found and there his dust rests today. Until very recently, I knew the spot so well I could find it in the night time. The little mound remained there to indicate the spot, so late as the year 1875.

And in that old fair ground the Thirteenth Regiment of Illinois Volunteers camped and the buildings were used for barracks until one Sunday morning the boys marched out to the fife and the drum to take the Illinois Central trains provided for their transportation to the theatre of war, as has been pictured so faithfully by Mrs. S. S. Dodge in another part of this book.

Largely through the efforts of Mr. Van Epps, the first county agricultural society was formed and in the year 1858, the first fair was held in the old fair grounds near the cemetery. As I have stated, William H. Van Epps was the first president of the society and in this connection it may be stated also that he was vice-president of the state society during the years 1859 and 1860. At the next biennial election he was made president of the state society. The other officers for the first year were: James C. Mead, recording secretary; James A. Hawley, financial secretary; William Butler, treasurer; A. R. Whitney of Franklin Grove, Joseph T. Little of Dixon, F. W. Coe of Palmyra, Abram Brown of South Dixon, William Uhl of Dixon, Lorenzo Wood of Dixon, Seth H. Whitmore of Dixon, Hiram Terry of Dixon and John Moore of Dixon, comprised the executive committee.

The officers of the society for 1859 were: President, William H. Van Epps; vice presidents, Horace Preston, Amboy; Thomas S. Hulbert, Bradford; John K. Robison, Brooklyn; Charles Brackett, China; Joseph Rhodes, Dixon; A. J. Coltrin, Hamilton; J. McManus, Harmon; Lewis Clapp, Lee Center; John T. Phillips, Marion; R. B. Viele, May; A. D. Moon, Palmyra; C. Reynolds, Reynolds; Wesson Holton, Willow Creek, and Hiram Terry, Wyoming; treasurer, Henry T. Noble; recording secretary, Charles V. Tenney; corresponding secretary, Joseph T. Little; executive committee, A. R. Whitney, F. W. Coe, Seth H. Whitmore, John Moore,

H. E. Williams, John Dement, Charles Hansen, Charles Gardner and William Butler.

The second fair began its session on Monday, Oct. 10, 1859, and continued with increasing interest, the entire week. The weather was pleasant, with the exception of the second day when it was rainy, with a cold east wind. The crowds in attendance were very large.

There were 167 entries of cattle; 269 of horses; 86 of swine; 75 of sheep; 141 of farm products; 44 of poultry; 53 of agricultural implements; 63 of fruits and flowers; 63 of preserves and jellies; 49 of domestic manufactures; 29 of household fabrics; 63 of paintings and drawings; 112 of household implements; 38 of mechanic arts; 16 plowing match; 9 ladies' equestrianism, and 16 miscellaneous.

There was paid out for 1858 premium disbursements, \$75.50; 1859 premiums, \$1,448.60. What a jump! Expense account, \$1,921.58; cash balance, \$71.15; total, \$3,516.83.

So that it will be seen at once, after the first year's experiment, there was a tremendous interest manifested in the fair by the people of the county. Among the notable exhibits shown was the collection of Doctor Everett's geological and natural history specimens, all the product of the Rock river valley. Hon. James Shaw of Mount Carroll also exhibited his very large collection of geological specimens.

The plowmakers, Andrus and Bosworth of Grand Detour, making the Grand Detour plows, and John Dement, making the John Dement plow, made very attractive exhibits at this fair. This shows that thus early in the history of the county and city, Col. John Dement was a manufacturer of plows. And it may as well be said in this connection, that when he discontinued making them, John Deere, of Moline, personally came to Dixon and hired all of the Colonel's plow makers to go to Moline and work for the Deere company.

Colonel Dement always exhibited at the state fairs, and I have before me the report of one fair at Springfield in which Colonel Dement's plows were paid a very high compliment. In the face of the strongest possible competition, he was awarded the first premiums over everything else. For over twenty years his plows stood at the head of the list.

Mr. John Courtright also had at this second fair a sorghum mill which he operated on the grounds and which attracted great attention.

Hon. James Shaw, of Mount Carroll, made the address.

During the year several new buildings were built: an editor's hall, art hall, dining hall, farm products hall, ticket and treasurer's office, secretary's office, a public wash room and a grand stand to seat 1,000 persons. Over in the stock department, the number of buildings was doubled.

This year must have been one of severe drought, because Mr. Little speaks about the fine and very large line of exhibits in the face of the severe drought of the summer and fall.

The first year's fair, notwithstanding its marking the beginning of the annual meetings, was a success; so much so that the officers felt warranted in going forward with the extensive improvements which I have mentioned. These fairs grew in interest for several years when the vast drain of our resources by the demands of the Civil war killed the fairs pretty generally over this part of the state, this one included.

On June 2, 1870, another fair association, called the Dixon Park Association, bought extensive grounds just west of town where a fine set of splendid buildings were erected and where a fine half mile track was built.

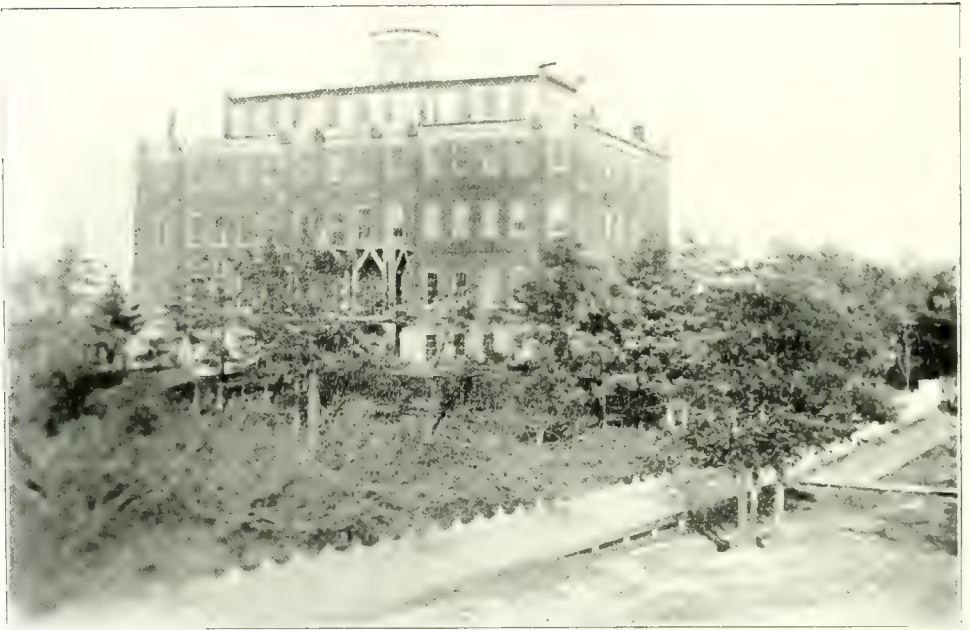
The fairs in the latter grounds were well attended for ten years. The races brought large numbers of horses to the track and the fair was a money maker. But with the prohibition of pool selling and the decline of interest in fairs, this one languished and died, and no further efforts at holding a county fair were expended until three years ago when William L. Leech, of Amboy, interested a number of friends and in the beautiful Green River park, which the city generously loaned for the purpose, the first fair was held. It was a great success from the start. The second year was a greater success and the present year was a record breaker. Its affairs are managed by a board of directors and they are elected by the stockholders of the association.

Oh! yes, I had forgotten to note the fact that the first grounds had a first class half mile track, forty feet wide.

For more of the Amboy Fair Association, the reader should read the very interesting account, "Amboy of Today," by Mr. P. M. James.







OLD SEMINARY IN BLUFF PARK

## CHAPTER XIII

### THE DIXON SCHOOLS

John K. Robison, later of Melugin's Grove, was the first school teacher in Lee county, and a Miss Butler, who came over from Bureau county, was the next. Both tutored the children of Mr. Dixon, Mr. Robison in 1833 and Miss Butler, later. For a time it was the custom of the Dixons to send their children up to the Kellogg's place in Buffalo Grove to be tutored, and then in turn the Kellogg children would be sent to the Dixon home. The children of the two families thus were tutored together.

In the year 1837, a schoolhouse was built on the lot just east of the Mrs. P. P. Starin residence, southeast corner of Fourth street and Crawford avenue. This building was paid for by private subscriptions from the thirteen families then living here. The building was a frame one-story building twenty by thirty feet, and later was moved to the lot on the southwest corner of Ottawa avenue and the alley known as Truman court or alley running east and west between First and Second streets. In the latter location it was used later as courthouse, town hall, meeting-house, etc.

In 1838 H. Bicknell taught this first school until about the summer vacation of 1840. During the year 1840, one Mr. Bowen taught the school, but an indiscretion shortened his stay. (There were others.) One day he notified his pupils to come early, as he had a great natural curiosity to show them. Next morning he climbed through the scuttle and in the character of a bear he cut all sorts of capers. Immediately the boys set upon him with clubs and poles and that ended Mr. Bowen's school teaching days.

Beginning with the fall term of 1841 and extending to the spring term of 1842, William W. Heaton, later circuit judge, taught this school. During the tutelage of those gentlemen, Orlando and Jane Anne Herrick, (later Mrs. Col. H. T. Noble), George Foote (of Hazelwood), and Mrs. Daniel B. McKenney, are

among the pupils known to have attended. During the summer of 1843, Miss Ophelia Loveland, (later Mrs. J. B. Brooks) taught this district school which included both sides of the river and upstream as far as Stephen Fuller's. (Fuller's cave.)

The teacher's compensation from tuition generally was paid in pork, corn, potatoes, fowls, etc.

Mr. O. F. Ayres was a director during the incumbency of Judge Heaton. The latter had flogged a boy; the enraged parents proposed a flogging for the stripling, Heaton, but as in other cases of the sort, the stripling was not touched, and Mr. Ayres and the stripling averted a scene.

During the year 1844, by reason of a sale of the lot, John Van Arnam claimed the building as a part of the realty, and he declared his intention of keeping it.

John Hogan, later a member of Congress from St. Louis, originated a plan for the removal of the building. Aaron L. Porter, Judge Heaton, and Nathaniel G. H. Morrill, were conspicuous aids and during the night the building was removed a safe distance from the lot and saved. That was a famous old building in its day; so famous, indeed, that I have copied verbatim, the late Dr. Oliver Everett's story of it:

"In looking over, recently, some old papers, I came across the subscription paper for building the first schoolhouse in Dixon, and have thought that it would not be without interest to many of your readers. The paper was got up in January, 1837, and contains many names familiar to the old settlers. The subscription paper reads as follows:

"We, the subscribers, agree to pay the sums severally attached to our names, for the purpose of erecting a schoolhouse in the town of Dixon. Said schoolhouse shall be for the teaching of primary schools, and shall be open for religious meetings of all denominations, when not occupied by the schools.

"Said house shall be one story high and at least forty feet by twenty on the ground, and shall contain two rooms which shall be connected by a door or doors, as may be thought proper.

"The subscribers shall meet on Monday, the 20th day of February next, at 6 o'clock, P. M., and choose three trustees to superintend the building of said house. The trustees shall have power to collect the money subscribed, contract for and purchase materials for said house, and employ workmen to build the same. They shall see that it is done in a plain, workmanlike manner, so far as the funds shall warrant.





OLD FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AND FIRST HIGH SCHOOL



THE FIRST BRICK RESIDENCE, DIXON

Built in 1846 by Horace Preston. On east side Pearl Avenue, near First Street



“Names—James P. Dixon, \$25; Oliver Everett, \$25; John Wilson, \$25; Caleb Tallmadge, \$20; J. B. Barr, \$10; Samuel Leonard, \$5; Jacob Rue, \$5; B. B. Brown, \$5; Samuel Gatten, \$5; Edwin Hine, \$5; Elijah Dixon, \$15; Hiram P. Parks, \$10; John Q. Adams, 10 cents, (Expunged); Seth D. Brittain, \$20, (If he settles here); Lemuel Huff, \$15; Alanson Dickerman, \$5; John Snider, \$5; H. Martin, \$5; W. P. Burroughs, \$15; John Dixon, \$20; I. S. Boardman, \$10; A friend, \$5; M. McCabe, \$10; Allen Wiley, \$10; J. W. Hamilton, \$5; George L. Chapman, \$5; W. H. Rowe, \$10; J. W. Dixon, \$10; E. W. Covell, \$25; E. A. Statia, \$5; S. W. Johnson, \$10; Robert Murray, \$10; Samuel C. McClure, \$15; Mrs. E. N. Hamilton, \$15; Horace Thompson, \$5; Mrs. R. Dixon, \$30; L. D. Butler, \$5; W. L. Dixon, \$5; Mrs. A. Tallmadge, \$5; Mrs. M. H. Barr, \$10; J. Murphy, \$10; N. W. Brown, \$5; S. M. Bowman, \$10; John Richards, \$10; C. F. Hubbard, \$5; W. W. Graham, \$5; T. L. Hubbard, \$5; John Carr, \$5; George Kip, \$5; William Graham, \$5.

“It will be noticed that many of the subscribers were persons living some distance in the country and of those who came to the county during the next season. The reason that Father Dixon’s name was not at or near the head of the list, is, that he was away that winter to Vandalia, then the capital of the state. It may also be noticed that the matter dragged somewhat, as such enterprises often do, and the ladies took it up, Mrs. Dixon giving the largest subscription on the list, and Mrs. Hamilton a generous amount. Again, it may be noticed that one John Q. Adams, not our present John Q. Adams, but an unworthy bearer of a great name, in subscribing, put two 00 where the dollars ought to have been, making his subscription but ten cents. When his attention was called to it he said it was just as he intended to have it. His name was dealt with as was fashionable at that time; it was expunged.

“The old house was built during the summer of 1837, of the size and form specified in the subscription paper, about twenty rods west of the cemetery, on or near lot one, block sixty-nine, now occupied by Harvey Smith. It was built perfectly plain, without a cornice, and enclosed with undressed oak siding and a hard wood shingle roof. The inside consisted of two rooms, one six feet by twenty extending across the end of the building, serving as an entrance way or vestibule to the main room, which was twenty by thirty-four feet, with three windows on either side and one at the end of the room opposite the entrance. It was plastered on the inside with a single coat of coarse brown mortar, and was warmed

during winter with a wood fire in a large box stove. In 1839 it was moved down on the north end of lot 5, block 17, on the west side of Ottawa street, just south of the residence of Doctor Nash, now occupied by Daniel McKenney, fronting to the north upon the alley. There it remained for several years and was used for schoolhouse, meeting-house, and courthouse (the first three terms of the circuit court of Lee county were held in it); elections and political meetings and conventions were held in it, and it was always used for whatever other purpose the people might congregate.

“The old schoolhouse was very plain, rough and uninviting to look upon, but there are many recollections associated with it which are always dwelt upon by the early settlers with great interest, and should make the memory of it dear to the people of Dixon. It was within its rough brown walls that the venerable and revered Bishop Chase, then senior bishop of the American Episcopal Church, first preached to the scattered members of his fold as were hereabout, and broke to them the bread of the sacrament, and where Rev. James DePui, a man of rare culture and gentle, and genial social qualities, preached for more than twelve months. It was there that the Methodist and Baptist churches of this place were formed and nurtured in their infancy. The Rev. Dr. Hitchcock and the Rev. Philo Judson, who for nearly half a century have been among the foremost laborers in the great and beneficent organization to which they belong, then in the vigor of early manhood, each preached his two years there. The Rev. Thomas Powell, a devoted missionary of the Baptist denomination, well known among the early settlers of no inconsiderable portion of the state for his indefatigable and faithful service in the religious interest of the people, then often living remote from each other, and either destitute or but poorly supplied with competent religious teachers, often held services in the old schoolhouse, and officiated at the formation of the Baptist Church of Dixon. Also the Rev. Burton Carpenter, the remembrance of whose labors here is cherished by many of the old settlers, and who, in the high standing he afterwards attained in the denomination to which he belongs, and in a life of great usefulness in another part of the state, has not disappointed the expectations of his early friends, commenced his labors in the ministry and preached about three years in this same old schoolhouse. During nearly the whole time religious services were held in the old schoolhouse, the Methodist and Baptist congregations occupied it alternate Sundays, the Methodist clergyman



preaching at Inlet Grove or Sugar Grove, and Mr. Carpenter at Buffalo Grove the intervening Sabbaths.

“In the spring of 1840, there was a convention of the whig party of the Jo Daviess representative district which embraced the whole northwestern part of the state, held at the schoolhouse, and Thomas Drummond, known in this generation as Judge Drummond of the United States court at Chicago, then a young lawyer of Galena, was nominated as a candidate for member of the House of Representatives in the State Legislature. He represented an extent of territory now constituting nearly two congressional districts. Among the teachers in the old schoolhouse was the late, lamented W. W. Heaton, whom the citizens of Dixon have seen rise by his industry and legal acquirements from the schoolmaster’s chair to the bench.

“In the beginning of the year 1843, the Methodist church was finished and dedicated and the courthouse was so far completed that the courts were held in it and it was used for religious and political meetings, and the old schoolhouse fell into comparative disuse.

“Sometime during the year 1844, it began to be noised about that John Van Arnam claimed the old schoolhouse as his property, as he had purchased the lot upon which it stood. One day the people were notified that upon a tap on their windows the night following, they might know that they were wanted at the schoolhouse, and the less said about it the better. Upon arriving there we found it surrounded by a great crowd, busy at work. Some were raising the building with crowbars and levers, others adjusting planks and rollers under the sills. There was that prince of movers of old buildings, N. G. H. Morrill, as usual directing operations, not giving authoritative orders to others, but by taking hold and showing them how, by doing the major part of the work himself. The industrious crowd tugged away in silence or talking in whispers or suppressed tones, now moving the heavy oak building an inch or two and again making a more fortunate move and getting ahead several inches or one or two feet, until it was thought the building was entirely over the edge of the lot, but by pacing from the street and making observations in the dark, it was thought best to give it just another little shove to make the thing sure. So all took hold with a will, and the old schoolhouse began to move again upon the rollers and made a lunge of twelve or fifteen feet, creaking and groaning as it went, as if conscious of the ignoble uses of trade to which it was destined, for the time came—my pen grows shaky as I

write it—when it was used for liquor selling. Upon this last move of the old schoolhouse every tongue seemed loosened, and all gave vent to their satisfaction in a wild shout or cheer, which rang through the darkness and by its heartiness (so I was informed) quieted the fears of some of the ladies whose husbands had at the tap on the window so mysteriously bounced out of bed and left them without saying a word. About this time, Mr. Morrill upon a vote of two freeholders at an election held for the purpose of voting upon the question of building a new schoolhouse, was building the stone structure for that purpose back of the Nachusa house, so the old building was sold and moved down onto the corner of Main and Hennepin streets, and was used for various purposes of trade, and finally burned in the great fire on Main street in 1859."

Doctor Everett refers to the northwest corner of the streets, the corner now occupied by W. E. Trein.

Among the pupils taught by Miss Loveland were Miss Helen Williams, later Mrs. Lemuel Mulkins; Miss Elizabeth and Master James Ayres, children of Oscar F. Ayres; Frank Dixon, son of John W. Dixon, and his little brother, Elijah.

During the years already mentioned, the schools also were taught by Miss Elizabeth Johnson, later Mrs. J. B. Nash, and a Miss Curtis, sister of Mrs. Seavey of Palmyra.

During the winter of 1843-4, the school was taught by Lorenzo Wood, one time probate judge. During that season the following, among others, attended: Miss Sybil C. Van Arnam, later Mrs. Elias B. Stiles; Mrs. A. R. Whitney of Franklin Grove, as well as A. R. (Randolph), who later became her husband.

Between the years 1846 and 1849, the school was taught by a Mr. Cross and James Lumm, the former in the public school and later a private school. The hands of Cross were deformed by rheumatism and as a hair-pulling artist he was dreaded. His term in the public schools ended in 1847 when Lumm's began. He too was a strict disciplinarian and his severity created many complaints to the directors. Nevertheless, the school rose steadily.

He was a devoted student of natural history and he assisted Doctor Everett materially in making his splendid collection of botanical, geological and ornithological specimens. In 1849 he removed west to Oregon. Several years later, a Dixon man traveling to the coast sought out Lumm and found him in an humble cabin, surrounded by bugs, birds and animals. Subsequently he removed the collection to California and sold it for

\$30,000. From the year 1842 to 1849, O. F. Ayres and J. B. Nash, directors, bore all the burdens incident to maintaining good schools in a new and somewhat negligent community. In 1848-9, a Mr. McKay succeeded Lumm. He was full of learning, but just as full of eccentricities, and though he had the knack of imparting knowledge, his period and his school was not a success. In a state of mental abstraction, he would lock the door and leave the children behind. Many times, too, he had novel ways of pointing a moral and adorning a tale.

One day a boy came to school with a cigar in his mouth. McKay appropriated it and coolly smoked it in presence of the pupils.

In the year 1851, Col. Henry T. Noble began his duties as a teacher, at a salary of \$40 per month.

By this time the old schoolhouse had been abandoned and the new stone building on the east side of Hennepin avenue was built on the lot now occupied by the blacksmith shop of A. J. Scriven and Son, between Second and Third streets.

The building was constructed loosely and heated at first from a fireplace, built in the east end of it. At times the room was very cold. One lady recalls a day when she froze her heel. But the school was a great success. Colonel Noble was the first teacher to bring the school into a systematic business-like institution.

During those years of 1851 and 1852, Noble established a primary department for the little children, one of whom was Henry D. Dement, and he selected from his older pupils, young ladies to teach them. One of these was Miss Jane Ann Herrick, subsequently his wife; the other was Miss Marie Sophie LaPorte, the writer's mother.

By this time the school had grown to such proportions that Miss LaPorte was compelled to teach her class in a room of the courthouse.

Other pupils there were Miss Mary M. Stevens, Miss Hannah Elizabeth Stevens, Ann Ophelia Porter (Mrs. F. A. Soulé), Miss Noble, daughter of Silas Noble and later wife of Jerome Hollenbeck, and Miss Anna Eustace, later Mrs. B. F. Shaw.

One laughable incident is related about little John Gilbraith who many times got his mother to write an excuse to let him out at 3 o'clock. One day his mother refused, and in a huff he went to ask J. B. Brooks to give it to him. Brooks being absent, Mr. P. M. Alexander undertook the job by writing these lines: "Here is a boy who needs a flogging,—and if you don't give it to him, I will."

But Colonel Noble did not flog the boy. It afforded him a good laugh and it afforded Johnnie a useful lesson.

In 1852-3, Charles N. Levanway continued the school in the stone building.

In 1853-4, Frederick A. Soulé continued the school in the same building.

In 1854, William Barge received from John Stevens, the writer's father, then school commissioner, a certificate to teach and he continued the school until 1859. Under his splendid management the same became a graded school. For about the first half of his first year, the old stone building was used; after that rooms were rented in the old "Land Office Building," later demolished, but standing on the west side of Hennepin avenue, next to where the stone People's church stands now on the northwest corner of Second street.

Dixon was enjoying a tremendous boom at this time and at times it was impossible to rent rooms. Under these circumstances, after several public meetings had been held it was decided to build the "Union School Building" on the west side of Peoria avenue, where the home of Jason C. Ayres now stands, near the corner of Fifth street. This building was built in 1855 at an approximate cost of \$6,000, and through Mr. Barge's untiring efforts Chase's patent school seats, the best then made, were installed and Dixon enjoyed the proud distinction of possessing the best equipped school rooms in Illinois.

To Mr. Barge belongs the honor of organizing the first graded schools in Lee county.

School children had multiplied so rapidly that both rooms were filled quickly.

In 1858, a high school department was established in the old Methodist church building on Second street, opposite the court house and next the present Baptist church. Of this high school A. H. Fitch was made principal.

In 1859, James Gow was made principal of the high school, and A. M. Gow was made superintendent of schools, then consisting of five departments. These gentlemen worked together until the year 1862, when Eli C. Smith was elected to fill both of these offices. For a while rooms were rented, then the little frame building just north of the Union school, and in the same lot, was built (in 1860) and used as a primary room. It was taught for years by Miss Swinburn. The grammar school was installed in the basement.



under the high school, and one of its first teachers was Miss Sophie Gardner, later Mrs. E. C. Smith.

About 1866, it became necessary to make more room for the increasing numbers of pupils and the old Lutheran church was rented and three departments were installed there.

In the year 1867, a vote was taken on the proposition to build a new and adequate building. The vote in favor of it was overwhelming. Two sites were proposed, one on block 88, owned and backed by Col. John Dement, and one further eastward on "the hill," numbered 102. The former won and today the three-story and basement brick Eli C. Smith school stands on block 88. The cost was \$30,000. A Mr. Randall, of Chicago, made the plans, and the contract for building was let to W. F. Bushnell & Co. In 1868 the building was begun and in September, 1869, school was opened in the new building.

The school board during the construction of the building was composed of the following members: Henry D. Dement, James A. Hawley and David Welty.

For the year ending July 31, 1871, the Dixon schools consisted of ten grades, the primary, intermediate, grammar, and high schools. The course of study contemplated ten grades, one year to each until the high school was reached and four years for it.

The teachers at that time were: High School—Principal, E. C. Smith; assistant, Miss Abbie Purvis; first grammar, room B, Miss S. F. Gardner; second grammar, room C, Miss H. E. Gardner; first intermediate, room D, Miss H. L. Brewer; second intermediate, room E, Miss R. M. Mead; first primary, room F, Miss E. L. Babbitt; second primary, room G, Miss Addie T. Welty; third primary, room H, Mrs. M. A. Johnson, First ward primary, Miss A. Georgia Curtis; Third ward primary, Miss E. K. Anderson.

Following are the names of graduates since the adoption of a course of study down to and including 1880:

1864—William H. Boardman, Clarence A. Howell, Rebecca Story and Madgie Brooks.

1866—W. Lafayette Davis, Shephard G. Patrick and Josephine Goble.

1867—Henry Brooks, Henry J. Stephens and Annette Simonson.

1868—Nathan McKenney, John Hine, Adelia Huntley, Libbie Kimball, Mary Pickard, Mary Stephens, Ella Williams, Emma Williams.

1870—Lila Fargo, Hattie Barlow and Lizzie Gardner.

1871—Irvin Lewis, Henry L. Trimper, Emmet Julien, Sophia Barlow, Orilla Drew, Mary Dimick, Ella Hatch, Mary T. Little, Ella J. Pratt, Jennie Williams.

The graduates for the year 1872 were Anna Fargo, Julia Gilman, Kate Jerome, Anna Murphy, Hattie E. Davis, Estella Osborne, Alice Kerr and Edward A. Morse.

1873—Charles VanArnam, Fred L. Shaw, J. H. Edwards, Horace Fleck, Martin Curtis, Carrie W. Eells, Fannie Murphy and Emma Ayres. (This was the writer's class. He did not graduate.)

1875—Abner Barlow, Frank Judd, Sharwood Strong, and Herbert O. Smith.

1876—Georgia Herrick, Mary Bressuehan and Lizzie Miller.

1877—Ida Strong, Dora Eaton and Harriet O. Sterling.

1878—George Vann, Charles Morey, George Bowles, Fannie Rosbrook, Emma Gilbert, Idell Deland, Carrie Pratt and Cornelia Daley.

1879—Joseph Petersberger, William O. Sterling, John Cropsey, Ed T. Smith, Matilda Weibezahn and Sophia Deland.

1880—Al Simonson, Jennie Hollenbeck, Homer A. Judd, and Cora B. Maxwell.

Following is a summary of monthly reports made July 31, 1871:

Whole number children of school age, 953; whole number pupils enrolled, 695; whole number male teachers, 1; whole number female teachers, 10; highest salary paid male teacher, \$1,500; highest salary paid female teacher, \$500; average salary, \$455; cost per pupil for tuition, \$13.25; entire cost per pupil, including contingent expenses, and interest on value of school property, \$22.33; average number pupils belonging, per year, 465; average daily attendance, 429; per cent of attendance, 92; number tardinesses, 1,395; total number days taught, 83,912.

At the time the foregoing report was made, James A. Hawley, John D. Crabtree and Reuben O. Hall were directors. By reason of the fact that numbers of our citizens resided on the north side of the river, in North Dixon, it very soon became apparent that school facilities for the children on that side of the river must be furnished. So early as Dec. 7, 1854, I find an item in the old Telegraph to the effect that a schoolhouse had been built by the citizens in the usual way, by subscription. This building stood, and in fact is the present house of Amos Bosworth, facing Crawford avenue. Less than four years previous, North Dixon contained but three dwelling houses. At the time of which I write, there were seventy and seats had been provided in the new school building for one hun-

dred and thirty pupils. Before 1860 this school of two rooms had become crowded and another building for primary scholars had to be erected on the same lot on its north side. In these old schools, the names of the teachers, so far as I can remember, were Miss Campbell, who subsequently married Eugene Pinckney, Miss Blood; the lady who subsequently became Mrs. John V. Thomas, Colonel Wood, who was principal when the war broke out, and John V. Thomas. Of course there were others, but not many.

These schools in turn became crowded and in the autumn of 1868-9 a beautiful new two-story and mansard brick school was built, the one still used, and by the side of which still another has been built since. On Jan. 15, 1869, this new building was dedicated with imposing ceremonies. Richard Edward of the State Normal made the address. This building cost the district \$20,000. When the schools were opened, the grade system was installed by the principal, John V. Thomas. Following Mr. Thomas as a principal were, Mr. Hague in 1874; J. L. Hartwell in 1875; Julius Lloyd in 1877; C. O. Scudder in the fall of 1878.

I have just found the names of the old superintendents of the North Side schools from the beginning: I. H. Williams, 1859; W. S. Wood, N. J. Gilbert, J. A. Flagg and then in 1863, John V. Thomas followed and continued until 1874.

While the early schools so far were denominated public schools, at first they were of a private nature, paid for by private subscription and supported by tuition. Nevertheless they were not what is understood to be private schools of which Dixon had many in its earlier history.

As early as 1855, several enterprising gentlemen sought to give to Dixon the advantages of a first class educational institution. To that end on May 7, 1855, W. W. Harsha, a Presbyterian minister commenced the first term of the Dixon Collegiate Institute in the basement of the Lutheran Church then located on Crawford avenue between Third and Fourth streets.

Following him as teachers in that institution were Eli C. Smith, Mrs. E. A. Smith, Mrs. C. L. Harsha and Miss Jennie L. Backus.

On July 4, of the year 1855, after securing an endowment for the Dixon Collegiate Institute, of \$25,000, the corner-stone was laid with imposing ceremonies. Subscriptions in money, apparatus and lands made by the citizens of Dixon raised the sum to \$37,000.

B. F. Taylor of Chicago made the principal address on the occasion. John Stevens and others delivered addresses too on the

occasion. Not very long ago I unearthed the one made by John Stevens.

In 1857 this institution was incorporated by a special act of the Legislature. But from one cause and another the school did not progress as anticipated, and in 1858, the presbytery abandoned it.

Its construction must have been slow because on Aug. 27, 1857, when Prof. A. M. Gow took hold of it to reorganize it, but two stories and a basement were all that were finished.

On April 18, 1861, the building then completed was purchased by Rev. O. W. Cooley, of Wisconsin, for the purpose of establishing a female seminary in it. Just what he did, I am unable to learn; but the next notice I find of it is Sept. 8, 1863, when S. G. Lathrop and M. McKendree Tooke, two Methodist ministers opened the Dixon Seminary. For a time this institution under the management of these two gentlemen, flourished. Large numbers of pupils attended, especially from the farms.

On Nov. 1, 1875, the name of the institution was changed to the Rock River University and O. G. May became president and M. M. Tooke became regent.

But the public school by this time had been brought to such a degree of usefulness that in a small town the small private school could not compete with it and so after a long period of reverses, Mr. Tooke lost the property and title passed to George L. Schuler. After this the building stood empty for a long while and people who desired took up their residence in its rooms without molestation. But after awhile it became rumored that the old building had become unsafe and Mr. Schuler had it demolished.

Architecturally it was a handsome building. Sitting on the brow of a beautiful hill, it was the first building seen from afar. From the car window, it presented a most picturesque appearance. Now the site is the beautiful Bluff Park in which so many beautiful homes have been built.

The last reference I find made to the old Rock River University is on the ending of the year 1880, where the building is spoken of as a five-story brick and stone edifice, on a high eminence in the east part of town, and that the institution had practically settled down to a Preparatory and Military Academy, yet giving instruction in the Normal, Business, Musical and Art departments.

The board of management and instruction were at that time, Jay R. Hinckley, president; Maj. H. O. Chase, military instructor; W. H. Chamberlain, business manager; Henry M. Douglas, Mrs. Jay R. Hinckley and Miss Lucy Whiton, teachers.



On July 15, 1857, an attempt was made by Rev. J. W. Downing to establish a Female Seminary under the auspices of the Episcopal Church. A frame house just west of the Illinois Central depot was rented and the school was begun, but like the other efforts to establish a private school the efforts of Mr. Downing failed and after a little while the school was closed never to resume.

In 1880, I find the schools summarized about as follows: The north side building already referred to is 54x63 feet, ground plan. Including basement it is four stories high. The first and second stories, each 13 feet high, are divided into two school rooms, 25x38 feet, with a recitation room for each. The mansard roof is one large room for study 39x48 feet, 16 feet high, having a rostrum in the north end 10x12 feet, with an ante room entering upon it from either side. C. O. Scudder was then principal. In the different departments there were 180 pupils, not a heavy increase in twenty years.

Miss Welty was the assistant principal; Miss A. Raymond taught the grammar room; Miss M. Yates taught the intermediate room and Mrs. A. C. Holbrook the primary room.

On the south side in 1880 there were 459 pupils. E. C. Smith was principal and superintendent; Miss Emma Goodrich was assistant and taught high school with fifty pupils. The first grammar room was taught by Miss Adelia Pinckney with an attendance of twenty-seven pupils; Miss Nellie Soule taught second grammar with an attendance of thirty-four.

The first intermediate was taught by Miss Harriet O. Sterling with an attendance of fifty-six pupils; the second intermediate room was taught by Ida Deland with forty-five pupils; the third intermediate was taught by Miss Emma Burnham with forty-nine pupils, and the fourth intermediate was taught by Miss Fannie Murphy, with fifty-seven pupils. The primary department was taught by Miss Amelia McComsey with fifty-one pupils. On Second street in the old Methodist Church school, Miss A. G. Curtis taught primary department with forty-five pupils. West of the Central Depot on Seventh street Mrs. L. L. Woodworth taught a primary room with forty-seven pupils.

The old Dement town school used before this last named was built, was held in the brick building on the corner immediately across the street, on the northwest corner. The first teacher I can remember teaching there was a Miss Gunn.

In later years, the Truman school in the west end of town and the big new high school building have been built.

The Catholic Church began in our midst a parochial school in the year 1872, by Rev. Father McDermott. At first it was conducted in the old church building, but later under the guidance of Father Foley it was enlarged and removed to the beautiful property where it stands now.

In the year 1912, the buildings were visited by fire and they were all entirely destroyed. But as if by magic they have been very materially enlarged and now are caring for more pupils than ever.

## CHAPTER XIV

### EDUCATIONAL HISTORY OF LEE COUNTY SCHOOLS

By Prof. L. W. Miller, Superintendent of Schools

On this day of the happy New Year, 1914, the compiler of this department completes his work and submits his manuscript of the work attempted.

A retrospection of the history of education within the borders of Lee county, Illinois, covers a period of about eighty years and records the evolution of a school system of marked efficiency. From the most meager and humble equipment in the homes of pioneers, through the period of the log or slab housing for pupils, to the matted floor of the real "Parlor School," with its standard equipment, aye, even further to the larger range of equipment to be found in our "Superior School," on the one side of our considerations, and the splendid edifices known as our city high school buildings, on the other side—all have developed within the span of life accorded to many an individual living today.

Progress has been the keynote of effort, and the pursuit of ideals has ever been actuated by worthiness of motive, each year providing the very best that circumstances permitted—each improved condition being secured by sacrifices commensurate with the ideals attained, and by the cooperative organization of the work of thousands of minds, and the translation of dominant thought into action. Priceless indeed the heritage, to those who now have opportunities, that today stand a mute, unanswerable argument against the persistent assaults of destructive criticism.

It is well that we pause on this eve of greater, and still greater possibilities, and take inventory. Some of the early history of education in specific school units has been felt secure in the writings of previous historians, and has given way for more of the condi-

tions permeating the school systems of the present day, and portions of certain specific accounts have been compiled by duplication.

Doubtless, errors are here recorded, but conflicts of data have been presented, and revisions of date by specific contributors have been permitted. It is thought that, in the main, this series of records is correct.

The first school opened within the borders of Lee county was that conducted in Father Dixon's home at Dixon's Ferry, during the winter of 1833-34. The building was begun by Joseph Ogee, a French-Indian half-breed and interpreter, who established a ferry at Dixon in the spring of 1828. Father Dixon purchased the ferry in 1830, and completed the house, which probably stood at the northwest corner of First street and Peoria avenue. John K. Robison was the first teacher, being succeeded by a Miss Butler of Bureau county, and here the children of Father Dixon were instructed, others coming from outside homes, as the pioneer town grew. There is a record to the effect that the Dixon children attended school at Buffalo Grove, with the children of O. W. Kellogg, during one winter, and that the Kellogg children attended at Dixon during the following winter—an arrangement made mutually advantageous by the heads of these households.

In 1836 the last of the hostile tribes of Indians disappeared from Lee county, leaving the country open to settlement. While Dixon contained but four families at this time, the rapid increase in numbers warranted the erection of the first schoolhouse in 1837. This building was a one-story frame structure, 20x30 feet. It was erected by subscription and stood on lot 1, block 69, not far from the cemetery. It was moved, in 1839, to lot 5, block 17, and was the general assembling place of the (then) village for a number of years. Here school opened in the fall of 1837, H. Bicknell being the teacher, and enrolling about twenty-five pupils. Parents sending children to this school contributed to its financial support—the custom of the day.

In 1838 the first schoolhouse in Brooklyn town was erected at Melugin's Grove, near the old Chicago stage road. Zachariah Melugin, the landlord of the village inn, became the first teacher.

The organization of Lee county occurred in 1839, and E. R. Mason was the first county superintendent of schools—then known as school commissioner. Into his care was placed the organization of the crude beginnings of our school system, and to the work of the private instructor and the teacher in the pioneer school was added the first attempts at a course of study, classification, and



general school equipment, his log cabin serving the twofold purpose of schoolhouse and tavern for a year preceding the erection of the school building.

Further to the east, in Wyoming town, we find a school building known as "The Little Red Pole Schoolhouse," not over twelve feet square, and erected expressly for school purposes—perhaps in 1836.

Thus do we find the early beginnings of the establishment of schools—principally along the Indian trails and stage routes. These schools were all necessarily small, and were, in each case, established and maintained entirely by individual contributions, the public school system not having then been established. Thus are recorded the days of "boarding round" by teachers, who often received not to exceed \$1.25 per week for their services, and of the time when it often occurred that some pupils were older than their teachers.

The history of an old schoolhouse formerly located about a half mile southeast of the Gap Grove schoolhouse, is very obscure. The building is now a milkhouse on the Howard Martin farm. On the southwest corner of the farm now owned by Joseph Gooch, near the forks of the road, once stood a log house, which some claim as the true historic schoolhouse, the information indicating that fifty pupils were once enrolled here. In 1863 the old church at Gap Grove was transformed into a schoolhouse, situated on the site of the present school building at that place. Later this building was sold for \$20, and converted into a barn on the old H. M. Gilbert homestead. The present school building at this point became its successor.

At an early day an "advanced school" was taught by a Mr. Judd, in a log schoolhouse near the John L. Lord homestead, to which many came from a distance on horseback. In 1837 there was a schoolhouse at the Gap, nearly opposite the town hall. In 1838 a small frame school building, which was never finished, in the center of Sugar Grove, was presided over for two winters by W. W. Bethea.

In 1847 a frame schoolhouse was built on or near the site where in 1858 a brick church with basement for school purposes was erected. This old "frame" building may be seen on the Fletcher Seavey homestead. Thus it will be seen that these old landmarks are being preserved by this substantial community, who have erected a tablet along the public highway—a memorial to the first schoolhouse in Palmyra.

The building erected in 1858 was soon partially rebuilt, to make it more substantial, only to be destroyed by fire later.

The frame building replacing the one destroyed is used for church purposes, and its basement is perhaps the best equipped one-room rural school building in Lee county, made so, largely, by the long period of superior service rendered to this school by its teacher, Mrs. Gertrude E. Russell, who taught twenty-one years consecutively in this school, retiring at the end of the last school year, 1913. Not only one of the ablest and most efficient of Lee county's teachers, but one who commanded the highest salary, \$70 per month for nine school months, during the latter years of her incumbency.

As early as 1843, there was a blacksmith shop at Prairieville, while the village was located and platted in 1855. Here we find a two-story brick building erected at a cost of \$3,000, some fifty years ago. A soldiers' monument, costing \$900 and erected by voluntary contributions, in 1869, stood on the beautiful school grounds here for many years, only to be removed to the Palmyra cemetery at Sugar Grove several years ago. No other monument to the memory of the soldier dead in Lee county is known to the writer.

The "Brick" schoolhouse in South Dixon, located three miles from Dixon, on the Chicago road, is notable in that it was the center of great intellectual activity for many years. Built at an early date, E. B. Edson was its first teacher, and at one time its attendance reached 120.

The first regular school in Willow Creek was started in one of Israel Shoudy's log houses in 1848. Martha Vandeventer was the first regular teacher, although others had preceded her in an irregular way. In 1849 a frame school building was erected by subscription, and while it was being completed, dwellings were used when the weather was too cold for the use of the log cabin. The first board of examiners to pass upon the qualifications of teachers for this school, consisted of John Smith, in grammar and geography; H. G. Howlett, in mathematics and reading; and John Colvill, in writing and spelling.

In the summer of 1847 a stone schoolhouse was built on Hempen avenue in the city of Dixon, on the site now occupied by Scriven's blacksmith shop. Henry T. Noble was one of the early teachers. In 1845 there were 149 persons under twenty years of age in the district, and seventy-five of these were enrolled in the public and select schools.

In 1854 the first schoolhouse was built in North Dixon.

In 1855 the "Dixon Collegiate Institute" was opened in the basement of the Lutheran church, under the auspices of the Rock River Presbytery, under the care of Rev. W. W. Harsha. Later, in the same year, the corner-stone of the institute was laid, in what is now Bluff Park. This school was endowed to the extent of \$25,000, with generous contributions in grounds, etc., by Dixon citizens. By special act of the Legislature this institution was incorporated in 1857. The school being discontinued, it later became the home of different private schools, and finally gave way to residences.

The Union schoolhouse was a two-story brick, located on the site of the J. C. Ayres residence on Peoria avenue. It was built in 1855 at a cost of \$6,000, and was torn down in 1874. Here the old wooden desks were replaced by the more modern type of furnishings.

In 1857 a female seminary was started under the auspices of the Episcopal church, and in 1861 a female seminary was established in the Collegiate Institute building. In 1858, a high school department was added to the course of study of the public schools. In 1862 E. C. Smith became superintendent of schools. "Dixon Seminary" was opened in the Collegiate building in 1863. The Dement town school was built in 1866, and in 1868 the old building in North Dixon was erected at a cost of \$20,000, and the next year the "Red Brick" building on the south side was built. The latter cost \$30,000. A primary brick structure served a period of usefulness on the North Dixon side, it being erected at a cost of \$4,000, and gave way in 1889 to the new high school building, completed the next year, just west, at a cost of \$15,500.

The "White Brick" school, on the south side, was completed in 1887, at an initial cost of \$5,500, it being enlarged and improved in 1892 at a cost of \$17,000. Several years ago this was destroyed by fire and the splendid new edifice known as the Central school became its successor.

In 1902, a kindergarten was established in the North Dixon schools. It has been continued until the present time, and now enrolls seventy children, taught by three teachers. Manual training was introduced into the south side schools during the same year—the same being maintained on an improved basis today. The Truman school in Morrill town, the west end of Dixon, cost \$7,000, and was erected in West Dixon during the same year.

This school was named in honor of Frederick A. Truman (now deceased), president of the board of education, and mayor of

Dixon for a long period of years. The Dement town school was named "Woodworth School" at this time, in honor of Mrs. L. L. Woodworth who taught in the same room of this school for thirty-two years. At the same time the south side Red Brick school changed its name to E. C. Smith school, in honor of its former superintendent.

The Northern Illinois Normal School and Dixon Business College began its existence in the Seminary building in 1881, with John C. Flint as president and Jesse B. Dille as principal.

These quarters were occupied but one year, when, upon the completion of the new buildings in West Dixon, the permanent home of this prominent institution of learning was established. Scholarships to the extent of \$20,000 were subscribed as an inducement to secure its location in this city, and the college building, proper, and the Ladies' Dormitory were completed when first occupied. The Gentlemen's Dormitory was completed in 1888.

This new school was popular from the very first and grew rapidly under its splendid business management until it registered nearly twelve hundred students (1891), with a corps of instructors numbering about forty. Courses in preparatory, teachers, scientific classic, business, music, telegraphy, art, etc., were maintained, this institution drawing students from nearly every section of the United States, as well as from Canada, and enjoying merited popularity as the leading educational center of northern Illinois. This school is today the property of Prof. I. F. Edwards, who for sixteen years occupied the position of county superintendent of schools of Lee county, and is still in operation, with an encouraging attendance.

Steinmann College began its existence in 1882, under the direction of Charles A. Steinmann, who conducted the school successfully for a number of years. It is located on a beautiful elevation on the banks of Rock river adjoining Assembly Park, on the north. Maj. F. B. Floyd now conducts a military school here, with most gratifying results.

Coppins' Commercial College is located in the heart of the city, and, under the skilled management of W. H. Coppins, this school ministers to the needs of those desiring work in its lines.

St. Mary's Parochial School was founded in 1897. Its location is in block 7, on Peoria avenue, on a plat of ground 200 by 300 feet, the same having once been a portion of the estate of G. L. Schuler. The course includes primary and grammar grades and the teachers are Sisters of the Dominican Order. The home of this order is at



Sinsinawa Mound, Wisconsin. This school is prosperous, and has a strong attendance. Work of an excellent order is done.

The following history of the Lee Center Academy is from the pen of Mr. Sherman L. Shaw, whose abilities and residence in this village qualify him as the logical authority for his contribution:

During the period between the years of 1850 to 1860, one of the best known schools in this section of the state was the Lee Center Academy.

The location being on one of the best known and most traveled east and west stage roads in northern Illinois, made it easy of access from all points. There were students in attendance from Rockford and Mount Morris, towns that had academies, as well as from other towns and even from outside the borders of the state.

The academy at one time employed four instructors and had an enrollment of about two hundred.

The people were fortunate in securing some very able instructors during the early days of the school. The one man among all the list that is given most credit for building up the school was Simeon Wright, who afterward became state superintendent of schools.

The village of Lee Center was laid out in 1846.

Roswell C. Streeter, father of Allison J. Streeter who gained prominence in the Greenback party and in the Grange, donated the location for the academy.

About the years 1847 and 1848 a two-story brick building was erected. School opened in the fall of 1848.

The first teacher was Hiram McChesney from Troy, New York. His days of usefulness were few.

During a noon hour one of the pupils wrote a note and dropped it where it could be found by the teacher. McChesney was offended by the contents of the note. One of the older boys, an innocent party, was accused of writing the note. His denial angered McChesney, who attempted to administer punishment in the good old-fashioned way. The young man, however, secured a handful of the teacher's whiskers, separated him from some of his raiment, and on the whole had rather the best of the argument. The affair created so much feeling that the teacher did not finish his term.

Following McChesney came H. C. Leonard, who with his wife and her sister lived and kept house in the upper rooms of the school building.

The attendance increased until it was necessary to build a stairway on the outside of the building to make more room.

It was during the time that Simeon Wright had charge of the school that the building of the stone part was agitated and as the result of his energy and work it was built.

In addition to the primary and common school branches the curriculum included courses in the sciences, languages, and music.

Henry C. Nash, probably the most popular and best loved of any of the teachers, died before his term of school had ended. His widow taught in the primary department for three or four years after his death.

Mr. Nash was succeeded by Professor Monroe. One of the old students writes: "Professor Monroe was a genius in certain ways; a brother was principal at the East Paw Paw Seminary in those days, and occasionally visited the Lee Center Academy, his coming being in the nature of a high class entertainment. The two brothers were devout worshipers of Sir Walter Scott and could spout the *Lady of the Lake* by the hour. Apparently they had at their tongue's end every dialogue and recitation to be derived from the voluminous writings of the Scot, and when they foregathered and unlimbered we were not obsessed *pro tempore* with the idea of anything but a classical education, the stimulus for the same being furnished without stint until the close of the session for the day. It was customary at the close of the winter session of the school to have an 'Exhibition,' and the one which signalized the end of Professor Monroe's winter term was the limit. The various departments of the school entering into the preparation with unusual interest, the result being a program of more than two hours, delivered to an audience that crowded to repletion the lower room of the old stone building.

The next principal, Professor Springstead, was a minister, who did not believe it necessary to indulge in mild theatricals, and before another exhibition was given by the school, the war tocsin had sounded and many of the older students had marched away to the "music of the fife and drum."

Among the other teachers were Reverend Barrett, Rev. James Brewer, Joshua T. Reade, E. W. Newton, C. L. Nettleton, Miss Lottie Kellogg, teacher of music; Misses Sarah and Minerva Loomis, Misses Carrie and Lottie Whitecomb, Miss Spaulding, Miss Mary A. Wright (Mrs. C. F. Lynn), Miss Seraphine Gardner (Mrs. E. C. Smith), Miss Harriette Hatch (Mrs. Dr. Frank Gardner), Miss Katie Franklin (Mrs. E. W. Newton), and a number of others.



THE OLD LEE CENTER ACADEMY  
One of Lee County's famous buildings





By a special act of the State Legislature, approved Feb. 21, 1859, the Lee Center Union Graded School and Union District No. 1 was incorporated. The first election under this act was held Oct. 3, 1859, and Dr. Charles Gardner, Lyman C. Wheat and L. Cyrenus Sawyer were elected to serve as directors.

The old building was condemned and demolished in 1909 and a two-story, four-room brick structure was erected on the old site.

The following is copied from a circular pasted in the record book of the district:

#### LEE CENTRE ACADEMY

This institution is now ready to receive pupils in the different departments of study. Thorough teaching in common English branches will be secured, while provision is also made for instruction in the higher branches of an English education, including the Natural Sciences, and Latin and Greek.

Young men intending to fit themselves for admission to our colleges, Eastern or Western, will find here good advantages for accomplishing their object. Young persons wishing to qualify themselves for teaching, will receive particular attention.

To persons at a distance, not acquainted with our school we state that it is situated in the center of Lee county, Illinois, in the midst of a moral and well-educated rural population. Its distance from Amboy on the Illinois Central Railroad, is four miles, and from Franklin on the Dixon Airline, seven miles.

Calendar for 1861-1862:

Fall term, September 2 - November 8, 10 weeks.

Vacation one week.

Winter term, November 18 - March 21, 18 weeks.

Vacation of two weeks.

Summer term, April 17 - July 3, 13 weeks.

The rates of tuition per quarter of ten weeks, will be as follows:

For Common English studies, \$3.00.

For 1 Higher English study, \$1.50.

For 2 Higher English studies, \$2.50.

For 3 Higher English studies, \$3.00.

For Latin or Greek, or both, \$3.00.

For Latin, Greek and Higher English, \$4.00.

All tuition is to be paid within one week from time of entrance.

Arrangements can be made for Piano Forte instruction.

Persons wishing to open correspondence may address Josiah T.

Reade, principal, L. C. Wheat, Esq., Dr. Charles Gardner or Sabin Trowbridge, Esq.

Lee Centre, Illinois, August, 1861.

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Soon after the village of Harmon was platted in 1872, a school-house was built on the present site; a larger frame building succeeded this one, which was burned in 1899. In 1900 the present brick structure was erected with three departments. Ten grades of work are offered here.

The history of education in Sublette town dates back to an early day, when Thomas Fessenden's log house was used for this purpose. A slab building on the Thomas Tourtillott place was next used. This structure, later known as the "Sheep Pen," was early used as a shelter for those pre-empting land in this section. Maria Coleman first taught here. Following this Joseph Carey taught in Mrs. Tourtillott's house, and in about 1850 John Bacon taught in Mrs. Richardson's house. In 1844 a third school in the township was established, this school offering opportunities for advanced work. In 1847 a school was held in a "lean-to" along the side of the log house of Daniel Pratt. In 1848 a school was opened at Knox Grove, along the stage road. This log building extended the course of study somewhat further, and drew pupils from a much greater distance. The village school at Sublette, containing two departments, has been in use for a long period of years, and offers eight grades of work.

In the village of Paw Paw, a two-story building received an addition of similar size in 1883, all being consumed by fire in 1884. In its stead a two-story brick building was erected, and in 1897 this too was consumed by fire. In 1897 the present structure was completed, at a cost of \$15,000. This building is modern, and the course of study offers twelve grades of work. This school is on the "accredited list," and teaches manual training, and sewing.

The first schoolhouse in Steward was erected in 1882, and cost \$3,000. Fire destroyed this building in 1903, and the present structure, costing \$7,000, succeeded it. There are four flourishing departments here, offering ten grades of work.

The early schools of Amboy were at Rocky Ford and Binghamton. The building at Rocky Ford is still in existence, and is used for school purposes, while that first erected in the Binghamton district has been removed. This building stood in the

center of section 11, on the northwest corner of the crossroads. In this building Reverend Ingersoll (father of Col. Robert G. Ingersoll) often preached, and Robert often accompanied him. In Amboy city the first school building was built in 1857. In 1864 the frame building in Gilson's addition was completed. Following this the old Methodist church was purchased, and in 1868 the two-story brick on the west side was added to the system. In 1896 a modern building was erected at a cost of about fifteen thousand dollars. Some two or three years ago the "East Frame" building was entirely remodeled and modernized. Twelve grades of work are offered here, besides domestic science, manual training, etc.

Ashton's new \$35,000 brick school building is the finest of its class in Lee county. This building, just completed, is now being occupied for the first time, and replaces the three-story building so long the school home in this city. Twelve years of work are given in this school.

The schools of Bradford town, while all rural, have made strong advances in their standards of physical equipment and efficiency. A traveler who called at one of these schools called at the county superintendent's office recently, and inquired relative to that "Parlor School, the finest one-room country school I have seen in Illinois." The salesman's reference was to the Weishaar School, District No. 89, Miss Clara C. Wagner, teacher. The writer notes, in passing, that the contrast between the crude equipment of the log cabin school and such as this type presents, marks a distinct epoch in the evolution of the rural school.

The schoolhouse at West Brooklyn is a two-story frame building that has served for a number of years as a school home for the children of this village. There are three departments and ten years of work are completed.

Franklin Grove's first and only frame school building was built in 1856, and enlarged in 1867. In 1894 the present building of stone and brick replaced the former one, at a cost of \$9,000. Twelve years of work are here accomplished in the four departments, with added classrooms.

Nachusa's first school is the present one, built in 1868. There is a good enrollment here, and the eight grades of work are taught by one teacher.

The schools at Nelson and Eldena are similar to those at Nachusa, and the schools of Reynolds and Viola towns rank high in proficiency, all being rural.

Compton accommodates her pupils in a three-room, two-story frame building, the successor of the one-room school that stood some twenty years ago in the west part of the village, the school made famous by the superior work of one of its instructors, Will Farrand, a brother of Judge R. S. Farrand of the circuit bench.

A parochial school of two rooms at Sublette, a German Evangelical school of one room in Brooklyn town, and a Norwegian school in Willow Creek complete the general review of the educational past. Elsewhere in the county, not mentioned above, the same general evolution of the school system obtains.

The following is a list of the schools of Lee county to date, with the name of the present (Jan. 1, 1914) teacher appended:

### *Palmyra*

Mound School, District No. 1, Bertha W. Herrmann; Sugar Grove, District No. 2, Anza Lawton; Wild Cat, District No. 3, Jennie Bloomdahl; Gap Grove, District No. 4, Rae L. Roberts; Prairieville, District No. 200, Amos E. Kreider; Oak Forest, District No. 5, William Landis; Wolverine, District No. 163, Estella M. Levan.

### *Nelson*

Hill, District No. 6, Helen Clark; Cook, District No. 7, Marie Southwell; Nelson, District No. 8, Hazel E. Donagh; Walker, District No. 9, Johanna McKune; King, District No. 10, Hazel N. Webber.

### *Harmon*

Kimball, District No. 11, Julia Bradley; Harmon, District No. 12, H. C. Eissner, Julia Bradley, Harriet Sheap; Mannion, District No. 13, Helen Talty; Lake, District No. 14, Emma McCormick; Carbaugh, District No. 15, Maud R. Keefer; Lyons, District No. 17, Mayme Simpson.

### *Hamilton*

McKeel, District No. 16, Julia Callahan; Merchant, District No. 18, Lucie M. Power; White Chapel, District No. 19, Vera Foley; Keigwin, District No. 212, Ellen T. Philips; Pope, District No. 20, Mildred Larkin.

### *Dixon*

Hazelwood School, District No. 206, Mary E. Murphy; Bend, District No. 22, Dora I. Breed; North Dixon, District No. 23, H. O. Baldwin, superintendent, Lebbens Woods, principal high school, Helen Brown, Ella Pratt, Lora Normington, Caroline Pratt, Martha Waite, Muriel P. Phelps, Bertha Brass, Geila E. Hill, Ella



B. Kentner, Emma P. Kentner, Emma Carpenter, Katherine Hennessey, Jennie Oakes, Ethel Leake, M. Mae Ruef, Olive Anderson, Gladys Steel, Myrtle Honey, Janette Gebhardt; Brierton, District No. 24, Anna Hennessey; White Oak, District No. 25, Agnes Conley; Garrison, District No. 26, Edith Miller.

#### *South Dixon*

Dixon, District No. 27, W. R. Snyder, superintendent, C. H. Anderson, principal high school, C. D. Boober, Freya Forester, I. E. Young, May Downing, Marie J. Ross, Gladys Gaylord, Leslie Homerich, W. H. Coppins, Mary L. Gantz, Mary W. Reynolds, Retta B. Slothower, Hazel Kenneth, Olive Shaklin, Clara Hosselberg, Caroline Slothower, Anna M. Fogarty, Bess Rowley, Lauretta Reynolds, Agnes R. Tague, Mary A. Erwin, Margaret M. Clark, Florence Mulkins, Elma Erb, Muriel P. Phelps, Hazel E. Todd, Florence Mason, Anna Wiggins, Bess Pankhurst; Burket, District No. 28, Esther Young; Preston, District No. 29, Mary Tourtillott; White Temple, District No. 30, Dolly Fauth; Lievan, District No. 31, Minnie Tourtillott; Brick, District No. 32, Mildred Knight; Kelley, District No. 33, Ferne Manning; Duis, District No. 34, Vera Lynch; Meese, District No. 35, Marguerite Reynolds; Eldena, District No. 36, Mary L. Hogan.

#### *Marion*

Stott School, District No. 37, Alice Ackert; Leonard, District No. 38, Idabell McDermott; O'Malley, District No. 39, Lena Krayser; McCaffrey, District No. 40, Nellie Ryan; Palmer, District No. 41, Anna Welty; Keefer, District No. 42, Earl Anglemier; Morrissey, District No. 43, Marea McKune; Welty, District No. 44, Julia Brechon.

#### *East Grove*

Fleming, District No. 45, Amy Hanson; Murphy, District No. 46, Frances Downey; Hubble, District No. 47, Mary McFadden; Daven, District No. 48, Alice Sullivan; Armstrong, District No. 49, Eva Larkin; O'Neil, District No. 50, Rhea Evans; Downey, District No. 51, Anna Dulin; Black Oak, District No. 21, Charlotte McCann.

#### *North China and Nachusa*

March, District No. 52, Ruth Scheffler; Hillside, District No. 53, Emma Schulz; Sunday, District No. 208, Clara P. Bush; Pineview, District No. 54, Hazel B. Hartzell.

#### *South China and Nachusa*

Nachusa, District No. 55, Pearle Feldkerchner; Emmert, District No. 56, Lida Norris; Hausen, District No. 57, Maude Conlon;

Franklin Grove, District No. 58, H. G. Anderson superintendent, E. G. Weaver, Ethel Holmgren, Florence Wollensak, Frances Vaughan, Beryl Skinner; Collins Dysart, District No. 59, Otie Sleacy; Graves, District No. 60, Clara Klapprodt; Samuel Dysart School, District No. 61, Myrtle Hain; Hollister, District No. 62, Genevieve Cheadle; Temperance Hill, District No. 63, Myrtle Ackerman; Seebach, District No. 64, Agnes Willard.

#### *Amboy*

Maine, District No. 65, Ethel Shoemaker; Union Corners, District No. 66, Lila Miller; Mynard, District No. 67, Winifred McCracken; Amboy, District No. 68, O. M. Eastman, superintendent, Ruth Keefer, Launa Robinson, Edna Washburn, Leota D. Brown, Myrtle Kenney, Jennie Carroll, Josie Keho, Margaret Hammond, Lena Scranton, Catherine Clark; Binghamton, District No. 69, Ruby Leavens; Green, District No. 70, Rose McCaffrey; Shelburn, District No. 71, Theresa L. Rourke; Smith, District No. 72, (no teacher); Holcomb, District No. 73, Elizabeth Kennedy; Elliott, District No. 74, Ella Huneycutt.

#### *Maytown*

Avery, District No. 75, Anna Harvey; Hall, District No. 76, Mary Langley; Loan, District No. 77, Frances McFadden; Dorsey, District No. 78, Neva Adams; Fitzpatrick, District No. 79, Mae McGovern; Goy, District No. 80, Nettie Hannan.

#### *Ashton*

Sanders School, District No. 81, Ora Griffith; Ashton School, District No. 82, John S. Noffsinger, superintendent, Eva Noeleh, Florence Allen, John Absher, Minnie Schade, Pearl Billmire, Lena Bode; Drummond, District No. 209, Marguerite Roesler; Fell, District No. 83, Ada Kersten.

#### *Bradford*

Mong, District No. 84, Edith Stephens; Killmer, District No. 85, Minnie Krug; Wagner, District No. 86, Chloe Hudson; Hart, District No. 87, Alice Helmershausen; Eisenberg, District No. 88, Tena Stephan; Weishaar, District No. 89, Clara C. Wagner; Harek, District No. 90, Emma Simpson; Wellman, District No. 91, Nellie Burns; Ventler, District No. 94, Edna Nattress.

#### *Lee Center*

Lee Center, District No. 92, Elfrieda Stimaker, Emily Williams, Grace Starks; Inlet, District No. 93, Mattie Perry; Ford, District No. 95, Edward Morrissey; Shaws, District No. 96, Gladys Smith; Wedlock, District No. 97, Anna Hayes; Ingalls, District No. 98, Mae Broeffle; Black, District No. 99, Mae Tiffany.

*Sublette*

Gentry School, District No. 100, Hermina Hecker; Ingalls, District No. 101, (no school); Clink, District No. 102, Carolyn Kuchna; Sublette, District No. 103, Lulu B. Long, Verna Wood; Austin, District No. 104, Clara Erbes; Ellsworth, District No. 105, Irene Harvey; Angier, District No. 106, Henrietta Erbes; Reis, District No. 107, Marie Koesler; Bartlett, District No. 108, Marjorie Snider; Henkel, District No. 109, Lydia E. Steder.

*Reynolds*

Gooch, District No. 110, Estella Krug; Menz, District No. 210, Marguerite Donagh; Hawkins, District No. 111, Iva Maley; Sullivan, District No. 112, Lucile Taylor; Weiner, District No. 113, Blanche Gale; Stone Ridge, District No. 114, Anna O'Rourke; Miller, District No. 115, Matilda Pfetzing; Salzman, District No. 116, Eva Walter.

*Viola*

Dunton, District No. 117, Blanche McDougall; Van Patten, District No. 118, Hazel Titus; Ross, District No. 119, Kathryn Long; Bernardin, District No. 120, Bertha Montavon; Webber, District No. 121, Maymie Tullis; Van Campen, District No. 122, Eva Holdren; Adrian, District No. 123, Ruth Yocum; Fairview, District No. 164, Gladys Fairchild.

*Brooklyn*

West Brooklyn School, District No. 124, Francis Morrissey, Jennie Hammond, Anna McCormick; Melugin Grove, District No. 125, Winnie Abell; Davison, District No. 126, Louise Grandjean; Carnahan, District No. 127, Annie Bernardin; Compton, District No. 128, R. J. Claypool, Libbie B. Parker, Nellie Oderkirk; Bauer, District No. 129, C. F. Marshall; Kestler, District No. 130, Celia Byrne; Foulk, District No. 131, Emma Swope; Politseh, District No. 132, Frances Craigmiles.

*Alto*

Carey, District No. 133, Marguerite E. Kirby; Thorpe, District No. 134, Clara Ekanger; Finnestad, District No. 135, Ida Larson; Steward, District No. 136, F. D. Chadwick, Nellie M. Bowles, Belle Houston, Clara Trottnow; Peterson, District No. 137, Mabel Rosenkrans; Grimes, District No. 138, Genevieve Lally; Bly, District No. 139, Pearl Andes.

*Willow Creek*

Twin Grove, District No. 140, Eunice Fisher; Byrd, District No. 141, Hazel Yetter; Risetter, District No. 142, Julia Schoenholz; Hilleson, District No. 143, Lena Warner; Miller, District No.

144, Ruby Craddock; Moffatt, District No. 145, Emma Kirby; Lee, District No. 148, R. O. Warburg, L. Maude Reynolds; Howlett, District No. 154, R. Nellie Knight.

### *Wyoming*

Beemerville School, District No. 146, Maude Riley; Jonesville School, District No. 147, Mae C. Pierce; Pawpaw School, District No. 149, W. C. Suft, Mrs. W. C. Suft, Elizabeth Turner, Gertie B. Smith, Erma Lowery, Avis Adams, Esther Hatz; Ralley School, District No. 150, Henrietta Pulver; Cottage Hill, District No. 151, Cinnie Guffin; Bridge, District No. 152, Lucy Burnette; Cyclone, District No. 153, Alice Lynch; South Paw Paw, District No. 161, Margaret Ball.

Following is a list of the county superintendents of schools in Lee county from the time this office was created to the present time:

### *County Superintendents of Schools* (First known as School Commissioner)

E. R. Mason, 1839-1840; Joseph T. Little, 1840-1843; Daniel B. McKenney, 1843-1846; Lorenzo Wood, 1846-1850; John V. Eustace, 1850-1853; John Stevens, 1853-1855; S. Wright, 1855-1857; James A. Hawley, 1857-1859; John Monroe, 1859-1861; W. H. Gardner, 1861-1863; B. F. Atherton, 1863-1865; James H. Preston, 1865-1873; Daniel Carey, 1873-1876; James H. Preston, 1876-1880; Samuel J. Howe, 1880-1886; P. M. James, 1886-1890; Jay C. Edwards, 1890-1894; I. F. Edwards, 1894-1910; L. W. Miller, 1910, present incumbent.

The matter of improvement of school conditions generally has, for a number of years, been given careful attention. Under varying forms of specific requirement, state diplomas have been issued to such schools as met certain requirements. On Jan. 1, 1910, sixty-seven Lee county schools had received state diplomas. Following is the list of such schools, which includes rural, village and high schools:

District No. 1, Mound; District No. 2, Sugar Grove; District No. 3, Wild Cat; District No. 4, Gap Grove; District No. 200, Prairieville; District No. 5, Oak Forest; District No. 6, Hill; District No. 7, Cook; District No. 8, Nelson; District No. 9, Walker; District No. 10, King; District No. 11, Kimball; District No. 12, Harmon; District No. 15, Carbaugh; District No. 16, McKeel; District No. 17, Lyons; District No. 19, White Chapel; District No. 22, Bend; District No. 25, White Oak; District No. 28, Burket; District No. 30, White Temple; District No. 31, Lievan; District



No. 32, Brick; District No. 36, Eldena; District No. 52, March; District No. 53, Hillside; District No. 54, Pineview; District No. 55, Nachusa; District No. 56, Emmert; District No. 59, Collins Dysart; District No. 60, Graves; District No. 61, Samuel Dysart; District No. 62, Hollister; District No. 80, Gay; District No. 81, Sanders; District No. 84, Dierdorf; District No. 86, Wagner; District No. 87, Hart; District No. 90, Harek; District No. 96, Shaws; District No. 98, Ingalls; District No. 100, Gentry; District No. 104, Austin; District No. 105, Sublette; District No. 106, Angier; District No. 113, Weiner; District No. 114, Stone Ridge; District No. 115, Miller; District No. 116, Salzman; District No. 117, Dunton; District No. 118, Van Patten; District No. 120, Bernardin; District No. 121, Webber; District No. 124, West Brooklyn; District No. 141, Byrd; District No. 142, Risetter; District No. 148, Lee; District No. 149, Paw Paw; District No. 161, South Paw Paw; District No. 64, Seebach; District No. 88, Eisenberg; District No. 89, Weishaar; District No. 91, Wellman; District No. 33, Kelley; District No. 136, Steward; District No. 29, Preston.

Plans for the reorganization of the standards of schools, and for classification of different types of the same, materialized about the year 1908. These revised plans provided for standard one-room schools, superior one-room schools, and standard graded schools, a diploma and door-plate being issued in each case. The new requirements for the standard one-room schools included special consideration of seat sizes and seat arrangement, heating and ventilating, and a general advance in school equipment and paraphernalia. The prerequisite conditions were first established by a personal inspection of a number of schools by a state inspector of schools who visited such schools in company with the county superintendent of schools, and met the directors of such schools at the schoolhouse for special conference. This occurred in 1911, since which time the recommendations of the county superintendent have been accepted by the state superintendent on Jan. 1, 1914, the following one-room schools, forty-three in number, have complied with the added requirements, and have received the new diploma with the designating doorplate, which has the words "Standard School" set in gold color upon a black background:

District No. 8, Nelson; District No. 2, Sugar Grove; District No. 3, Wild Cat; District No. 32, Brick; District No. 140, Scarboro; District No. 54, Pineview; District No. 61, Samuel Dysart; District No. 161, South Paw Paw; District No. 10, King; District No. 25,

White Oak; District No. 42, Keefer; District No. 142, Risetter; District No. 208, Sunday; District No. 113, Weiner; District No. 29, Preston; District No. 89, Weishaar; District No. 96, Shaws; District No. 7, Cook; District No. 90, Harek; District No. 9, Walker; District No. 121, Webber; District No. 1, Mound; District No. 33, Kelley; District No. 97, Wedlock; District No. 30, White Tempie; District No. 147, Jonesville; District No. 145, Moffatt; District No. 31, Lievan; District No. 88, Eisenberg; District No. 143, Hilleson; District No. 163, Wolverine; District No. 141, Byrd; District No. 91, Wellman; District No. 209, Drummond; District No. 93, Inlet; District No. 36, Eldena; District No. 14, Lake; District No. 11, Kimball; District No. 118, Van Patten; District No. 84, Mong; District No. 87, Harek; District No. 86, Wagner; District No. 20, Pope; District No. 122, Van Campen; District No. 60, Graves.

Twelve schools are nearly ready to enter this list, and will in all probability, be so registered before the close of the present school year. Additional to this there is a long list of those who have made the start, they having installed new seats, and provided improved physical equipment, at a cost of hundreds of dollars. Verily the rural school is coming more nearly into its very own, and improved conditions are indicating in an unmistakable manner the progressive sentiment that today permeates every avenue of life's activities.

The "Superior School" diploma is issued for modern architecture, and for general requirements far in excess of those indicated for "Standard Schools," it being the intention to make such schools models for the guidance of new structures to be built in the days to come. This diploma is issued upon personal inspection of the state inspector, only.

In receiving from the state educational department, the third diploma to be issued in the great State of Illinois, for perfection of physical equipment as exemplified in a school building, and proficiency in regular school work, Lee county regards with pride the new "Superior School" at Scarboro.

The honor shown its directors in sending from Springfield a representative from the state superintendent's office to deliver a diploma and a doorplate is an honor quite unusual.

It was through the tireless energy, and the beautiful philanthropic spirit of Miss Ida M. Durin, of Scarboro, daughter of one of Lee county's foremost pioneers, that the realization of this splendid type of school architecture became possible.

In the summer of 1911, Miss Durin notified the county superintendent of schools that she would contribute one-half of the cost of a new modern schoolhouse, provided the school district would raise the other one-half of the cost, and proceed at once with the erection of the building.

This proposition was accepted, and the district's portion of funds was also made immediately available, by the purchase of the district bonds at a low rate of interest by Miss Durin.

Plans for the including of sanitary features, and all regulations for comfort and utility, were developed by Miss Durin, who superintended every detail of the construction, in person.

This building conforms to every modern item of perfection. In architecture, it is a model. In sanitary appointments it seems to be more than perfect. The lavatories established therein have porcelain and nickel furnishings. The libraryroom is a little gem by itself, stored with just such books as the school demands. The wardrooms are examples of perfect arrangement. The seats are all graded to adapt themselves to the size of the pupils to occupy them from the first to the eighth grades. All light is admitted to the room from the rear and left-hand side of the pupils. All out-buildings are approached by broad cement walks, the grounds are beautified by trees, shrubbery and flowers, and the school is provided with pure sparkling drinking water from a well, equipped with modern bubbler drinking appliances.

The number "3" indicated on the "Superior Diploma" issued to this school indicates that it is the third one granted by the state superintendent's office to any school within the borders of Illinois, a most gratifying and remarkable fact.

The capacity of the new school building was far inadequate to contain those who had assembled to assist in the formalities of the occasion, and the auditorium of the church adjacent was used for this purpose.

Conspicuous on the program was the "History of Our School," by Mr. G. T. Noe, clerk of the board of directors. His notations showed that the first school at this place was taught in James Thompson's original log cabin. In this deskless school-room the seats were slabs without backs, placed around the walls of the room. In 1854 a schoolhouse was built by subscription, and three years later became the property of the school district by purchase. Fire destroyed this structure in 1864, and the Ellsworth schoolhouse replaced it in 1865.

The first teacher in this school was Mrs. Maria Ellsworth, and it was beautifully appropriate to have her present, and to listen to her reminiscences of the days when she received \$1.25 per week for her services, and boarded round.

The site of this school was some distance south of the new Superior School, well sheltered on the north, west, and south by the trees of Twin Grove. In recent years, this site was changed to the present location in Scarboro, where the old building gave way for the modern new one. The old building was sold by the trustees, and now forms a part of a store building in the village, and is occupied by C. C. Fisher, with a stock of general merchandise.

Miss Eunice Fisher, daughter of Jacob Fisher is the present efficient teacher in this school, she is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin, and holds a life certificate from that state. By her painstaking efforts, splendid judgment, and general professional ability, she has caused the school to maintain a standard of work commensurate with expectations. Manual training, music, sewing, and the elements of domestic science are taught in this school in addition to the regular course of study.

The State Inspector, Mr. U. J. Hoffman, commented with much enthusiasm, on the general conditions found here, indicating, "I find everything up to expectations." Plans are now developing for the visit of the state inspector, with a view to a beginning in the third list of schools, the "Standard Graded School." Doubtless a school of this type will soon grace the list as a pioneer in this departure.

This portion of this contribution for history's page would be incomplete without due recognition of the faithfulness and loyalty of Lee county's teachers, without which these splendid achievements would be seriously interfered with; and to the large body of pupils and patrons whose zeal and fidelity know no rest. All credit to them, they who bear the burdens in shine and shadow. The inspector's compliment to those responsible for the excellent foundation for achieving these results for the general welfare of the rising generation is most appropriate in this chronicle. "Lee county has a grand foundation for this work of improvement, in which there is honor enough for us all."

The school systems of today are well organized. Accredited courses of study are given in several of the schools maintaining the full four-year work, while schools maintaining but two years of such work, are given full, or liberal credit for the work done. Rural school work is specifically planned and executed, and



splendid standards maintained. Monthly reports to the homes are general. Bi-monthly tests are provided for prospective graduates from rural schools and a "Central Examination" paves the way with "half-credit" for graduation. "Central Examinations" are personally conducted by the county superintendent who reviews the work of each graduate, prescribing in the individual case for deficiencies, none worthy being barred from graduation until the opening of schools in the succeeding year. One hundred and twenty-five out of a class of one hundred and twenty-six graduated last year, and the new High School Tuition Act, passed by the last General Assembly now makes the district responsible for all tuition payments necessary to give all pupils a high school education.

Among the new school laws enacted by the last (Forty-eighth) General Assembly, we may note the following: The addition of \$1,000,000 to the distributable fund for the distribution of 1914. The act to provide high school privileges for eighth grade graduates, the home district becoming responsible for the payment of the tuition of all such pupils, during the present (1913-1914) school year, and each year thereafter. The act to provide for the certification of teachers, to take effect July 1, 1914, whereby the county will issue nine different forms of teachers' certificates, instead of two, at present, and whereby the examinations for teachers' certificates will be wholly in the hands of the state examining board. The act relative to the election of members of boards of education provides for nominations by petition, such petitions to be filed at least ten days prior to the election and all ballots to be furnished by the district.

The first annual report of the county superintendent of schools, now available in the office of said officer, bears the date of 1869, and was made by Superintendent James H. Preston. The following items of interest are taken therefrom:

Total persons under 21 years of age, 13,513; number between 6 and 21, 8,862; number enrolled in schools, 8,310; number of school districts, 144; number of schoolhouses, 145.

Male teachers, 93; female teachers, 164; total, 257.

Highest monthly salary of men, \$120; lowest monthly salary of men, \$20; highest monthly salary of women, \$50; lowest monthly salary of women, \$10.

Amount received from distributable fund, \$10,299.12.

Total expenditure for all school purposes, \$83,027.29.

One section of school land in Hamilton town, and one section in Viola town were yet unsold.

The annual report of the same officer for 1873, forty years ago, shows improved school conditions. Five hundred and sixty acres of the school section of Viola were sold during this year for about \$12.50 per acre. The remainder was sold later at about the same price, and the Hamilton section was sold in 1892 for about \$7.00 per acre. One cannot help thinking that if the sale of these Lee county lands which were set aside for the perpetuation and maintenance of schools, might have been deferred, our schools would have profited immeasurably thereby.

Items of interest in the annual report of the county superintendent of schools for 1913 are as follows:

Number of kindergarten pupils .....	70
Number of private schools .....	4
Number of teachers in private schools .....	14
Enrollment in private schools .....	411
Number of public school districts .....	163
Number of public school buildings .....	169
Number of teaching positions in public schools...	263
Number of men teachers .....	23
Number of women teachers .....	240
Total value of school property .....	\$455,512.00
Amount of tax levy .....	153,697.00
Tuition of transferred pupils .....	176.64
Paid for transportation of pupils .....	571.95
Paid for new grounds and buildings ....	10,001.75
Paid for new equipment .....	2,920.64
Net expenditures for school purposes....	171,494.46
Distributed by county superintendent	
from distributable fund .....	7,949.76
Cash on hand—school funds .....	84,313.57

The following statistics pertain to numbers as per column explanation.

	Total under 21 yrs.	Total between 6 and 21	Enrolled in public schools
Brooklyn .....	539	278	254
Viola .....	264	181	132

Reynolds .....	255	164	113
Wyoming .....	560	409	288
Willow Creek .....	381	266	108
Alto .....	354	237	167
Hamilton .....	175	118	92
Harmon .....	353	261	134
Nelson .....	332	240	178
Palmyra .....	275	193	106
East Grove .....	211	171	120
Marion .....	311	206	152
Dixon .....	2,111	1,554	907
(North) Dixon .....	1,282	843	630
Maytown .....	248	164	131
Amboy .....	847	635	485
South China and Nachusa..	535	363	294
North China and Nachusa..	115	82	35
Sublette .....	389	277	231
Lee Center .....	397	251	181
Bradford .....	352	248	191
Ashton .....	411	315	249
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	10,697	7,456	5,178

Of those enrolled in public schools 617 were in high schools. There were 103 high school graduates and 124 graduates from the common schools.

In 1911 an exhibit of the products of the counties traversed by the Illinois Central railroad was held at the Illinois State Fair. Mr. Ernest J. Hecker of Amboy, Illinois, had charge of Lee county's exhibits on this occasion, and took some fine prizes.

Co-incident with this event, and maintained each year thereafter, a Boys' State Fair School has been maintained by the Illinois State Farmers' Association, to which Lee county has sent representatives each year—the same being boys from the country and city schools.

The 1911 class consisted of C. O. Rosenkrans, Miles Leavens and Charles W. Jeanblanc, from Paw Paw, Amboy and Lee Center respectively. F. B. Haley and Ernest J. Hecker, both of Amboy, constituted the 1912 class, while George King and Roy Thompson, both of Amboy, composed the 1913 class.

In all rural schools, and in several of the high schools, the Illinois State Course of Study is fundamentally the basic guide for the classification of pupils and for the work prescribed for study.

The subject of agriculture is now required for graduation from the rural schools. The subjects of manual training, sewing and domestic science are also fast becoming popular in rural schools, while drawing and vocal music are taught in a large per cent of the country schools. Exhibits of such work in local centers, and at the county fair, indicate that the popularity of these subjects is radiating from the cities and villages to the smaller rural centers, where, too, the larger training of vocational faculties blends harmoniously with mental proficiency.

Standing, as it were, upon an eminence, from which we review the splendid records of the past, warming the heart with a glow of satisfaction, and making plain, and ever more plain, the duty of all into whose care is entrusted, during the plastic formative years of childhood, the moulding of character—the great leadership in matters of a better citizenship for the unborn days, and we pledge ourselves, one and all, to a rededication of faithfulness of effort, and a continuance of worthy motive in the great cause of education—for the children's sake.



## CHAPTER XV

### HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE SWAMP

By George A. Lyman

The drainage of Inlet Swamp, comprising about 30,000 acres of land in the townships of Alto, Willow Creek, Reynolds, Viola, Bradford and Lee Center, in Lee county, Illinois, is one of the most stupendous undertakings in the history of northern Illinois—not alone from the magnitude of the work itself, but from the great difficulties that had to be overcome. The dam of solid rock half a mile thick, at Inlet, presented a barrier that had been looked upon as insurmountable.

Action for reclaiming these lands had been taken as far back as the early '70s. The writer has been on at least three drainage assessment juries since 1870; but all attempts proved futile and brought no good results from the fact that there was no sufficient outlet. The ditches cut at various times at several thousand dollars' expense, through land that is practically a dead level, served as channels in which the water could accumulate during the summer and fall, when the land was not overflowed; but they provided no current, and aided but little in removing the water. The ledge of rock at Inlet had to be cut through and a deep channel made as the first move in any successful system of drainage. It took time and costly experiment to convince the majority of swamp-land owners of this.

To Ira Brewer, one of the earliest settlers of Bradford township, belongs the credit and the honor of being the pioneer in reclaiming the swamp lands of Inlet. He first recognized the prospective value of the lands and was always active in protecting public interest in them. The old Dewey dam, eight feet high, set the water back about twelve miles and overflowed about fifteen

thousand acres of land. All these lands were given to the county by the state, which received them from the Government. A move was made in the early days to have the 15,000 acres of overflowed lands given to the mill owners for a perpetual mill-pond. The action was well meant, and at that time appeared to be a wise and judicious action; and but for the personal efforts of Ira Brewer it would have been consummated. He stood at first almost alone in his opposition to it on the county board, and was the only member that was determined in his opposition to it. The scheme was finally defeated by a majority of one.

Following this action came the removal of the Dewey dam at Inlet and the lowering of the water level all over the tract of 30,000 acres. In place of the waste of water in which grew gigantic rushes, Indian rice and other worthless vegetation, the home of millions of geese, ducks, swan, brant, pheasant, grouse, wild turkey and other wild game, there came in gradually a growth of coarse slough grasses, some short and mingled with weeds in great variety, other kinds rank and tall, growing to a height of ten or twelve feet. The land was overflowed during the spring and early summer, but later unless the season was wet, the water drained off and the sod, which was of the very toughest nature, would bear up a team and loaded wagon. During the fall of the year, after the grass had been killed by frosts, magnificent prairie fires prevailed until snow came; the flames at night, when there were high winds, lighting up the sky with surpassing grandeur, enabling a person to read by the light miles away, and being visible for a distance of nearly one hundred miles. These magnificent scenes of thirty years and more ago remain indelibly impressed upon the memories of those who witnessed them. During the winter months there were unlimited skating facilities. It continued to be the home and nesting place of wild fowl, and of deer, wolf, and other game, and was a paradise for hunters. During the grazing season the eastern part of Viola township was headquarters for an immense herding ground extending throughout the entire eastern part of the swamp, where thousands of cattle and horses were herded by a troop of herders—cattle for one dollar a head and horses for two dollars a head during the season. Robert M. Peile of Reynolds township handled the herding many years, and a man by the name of Collins also had a large herd there. Enclosed pastures were almost unknown in those years, and almost every farmer in the eastern part of the county, and many from a greater distance, had cattle in the herd during the sum-

mer season; and notwithstanding the swarms of "green-heads" and other annoying insects, stock came out in good condition the first of October.

The swamp, especially about the edges, began to be dryer; the quality of the grasses became better and better. Attempts were made to raise crops on lands that a few years before were under water; the wild grass improved in quality, and dry seasons after harvest hundreds of farmers from miles around could be found on the "swamps" cutting "sprangle-top" hay. At first it cost nothing but the labor of cutting, curing, and hauling; but in a few years its value became known to the land-owners and it sold for from fifty cents to one dollar and fifty cents an acre standing. During the extremely dry summer of 1887 the marsh was nearly all cut for hay, farmers and liverymen coming from Polo, Oregon, and even farther, buying the standing hay for from one dollar to one dollar and fifty cents an acre. "Pond hay" sold the following winter as high as eight dollars to ten dollars a ton.

About this stage in the transformation of the marsh lands, the project of forming a hunting park was agitated by Mr. Valentine Hicks of Bradford, who owned what was formerly the Stephen Clink farm, now owned by W. S. Frost, Jr. He is a native of Long Island, a practical hunter with much experience in such matters, having organized the first hunters' club of New York city and was the founder of a hunting park at Currituck Sound, North Carolina. After several years of agitation the "Rising Sun Park Association" was organized and incorporated with a capital stock of \$50,000, comprising 500 shares of \$100 each, with the principal office at Ashton, Lee county, Illinois, the duration of the corporation to be ninety-nine years. The object was to preserve the lands—inclosing a tract about seven miles square—for game and fish, for hunting and pleasure for members of the association. The Rising Sun Park Association was incorporated Dec. 24, 1887, and papers issued, Henry D. Dement being Secretary of State. The incorporators were Samuel Dysart, John Nelles, Samuel F. Mills, U. Grant Dysart, Valentine Hicks, William A. Hunt, Dr. Nicholas Rowe. A constitution and by-laws were adopted and books for subscription to the capital stock were opened.

There were eight directors: Samuel Dysart, Franklin Grove; Samuel F. Mills, Ashton; John Nelles, West Brooklyn; Valentine Hicks, Bradford; Dr. N. Rowe, 343 State street, Chicago; Dwight Townsend, 187 Broadway, New York; Mr. H. S. Bergen,

Bay Ridge, L. I.; Mr. M. C. Clark, Washington, D. C. The officers were: President, Samuel Dysart; vice-president, Valentine Hicks; treasurer, N. A. Petrie, Ashton; secretary, U. Grant Dysart, Franklin Grove. A part of the stock was subscribed and a lively interest was taken in the enterprise by gentlemen in Chicago, New York and other places. There arose a contest for supremacy between those favoring a park and those favoring reclaiming the land for agricultural purposes. It is still thought by some that a game preserve would have been a good thing, and fully as profitable in the long run as to dry up the great source of water supply in that section. The advantages of a game park and preserve as contemplated by Mr. Hicks and others were never understood by the landowners and the public. We are too practical and would turn everything to profit, regardless of pleasure and other considerations. A game preserve, as contemplated, comprising about fifty square miles, would have been a source of profit to farmers in that section, in the greatly enhanced value of land which would follow the attractions of a park owned and beautified by wealthy men of the cities. Hard roads, telegraph and telephone lines, fine club-houses, distinguished visitors with money to spend with a postoffice and other features most desirable and advantageous would have followed in time.

In this connection it is proper to call attention to the game park now in process of establishment in Bureau county, comprising about twenty thousand acres of what is known as St. Peter's marsh—a tract of land very similar to the Inlet marsh lands. It would not be difficult to drain these lands; but a park association has been organized, wealthy men have been interested in the project, and \$200,000 will be used in the purchase of the tract and as much more for attractive club houses and for beautifying and making necessary improvements. The association will be organized and take possession this season, 1901.

While these marsh lands were well adapted to the purposes of a game park, the idea of reclaiming them for agricultural purposes had gained such a hold upon the minds of the landowners, that it prevailed, and the game park project failed. It had the effect, however, of forcing the friends of drainage to act more promptly and decidedly. The game park movement is an incident in the history of the swamp lands that is worthy of this notice. Had the movement been launched ten or twenty years earlier, the prospect of success would have been good. Only those who lived in the vicinity of the swamps in the early days, before and just



after the Dewey dam was removed, would believe the marvelous facts that could be narrated of the millions of geese, duck, brant, swan, and other water fowl that during the spring and fall covered the swamps, rising in immense flocks that literally spotted the sky like flying clouds and filled the air with a noisy quack and cackle, flying low in the air within easy range of a shot-gun—with prairie chicken, quail, pheasant, sand-hill crane, and other game, all in such vast number as to become a nuisance in grain fields. Wild game was more common on the table than domestic fowl during the spring and fall; and a wild goose, a pair of ducks or a brace of chickens could often be had for the asking.

The wisdom and foresight of Ira Brewer had become manifest, and the swamp lands came during all these years to have a value. The idea of draining the lands began to take shape, although but few believed they would ever become equal in value to the adjacent highlands. Schemes of private drainage and drainage under special acts of the Legislature were worked with little success and not much profit. The landowners were not satisfied until they had practically demonstrated that the lands could not be drained with a wide stone dam at the natural outlet only a few inches lower than the level of the swamp. The stone dam must be cut through and a system of ditches dug, at an expense estimated by Mr. Rutledge, the first engineer employed to make a full and careful estimate, of \$185,000. This dismayed the landowners, being far more than the entire swamp was worth. The system was modified to reduce the expense to \$67,000. That was the first outlay. The completed system has cost nearly the \$185,000; and the price of the swamp lands now fully equals, and even exceeds the price of the adjacent uplands.

Sometime during 1885 or 1886 three men owning large tracts of land in the swamps—Ira Brewer of Bradford, John Nelles of Viola, and A. B. McFarland of Mendota—joined in an effort to organize a drainage district on a scale never before contemplated. It was to take in all the lands that would be benefited by drainage and open an outlet of sufficient depth and capacity through the rock at Inlet. This was the first movement that culminated in the organization of Inlet Swamp Drainage District. They met with opposition and faced difficulties that would have daunted men of less foresight, courage and perseverance. To them, especially to Mr. John Nelles, of Viola, belongs the credit of having not only originated the work, but of having cleared the way of

preliminary difficulties, secured the good will of the majority of landowners toward the enterprise and put it on a sound basis. Those who now enjoy the benefits and advantages of the drainage system have little idea of the time and money expended by Mr. Nelles in preparing the way, meeting the objections, and allaying the fears of landowners. Opposition to a scheme involving so enormous an outlay was natural, and it required the highest degree of patience, tact and perseverance to bring a majority of the landowners into acceptance of his views and secure their support for the enterprise.

This preliminary work, so efficiently performed and so essential to future success, was most ably seconded by the masterful executive ability and untiring energy of Mr. Wesley Steward, one of the first commissioners after the organization of the district. It is just and proper to make special mention of the invaluable services rendered by Commissioner Steward, the man of action and energy who bore the brunt of the work during the early years and devoted the most of his time to it. Those associated with him in the work bear witness to his superior activity and helpfulness, and join in giving to him the place of honor as the executive head of the commission.

The successful completion of the work is not the only remarkable feature of the enterprise. Seldom, if ever, has an undertaking of such magnitude, so far-reaching in its results, involving so many interests, and affecting the rights and property of so large a number of individuals, been carried out with so little litigation and so few mistakes. Every move has been well planned, carefully considered with reference to all interests involved, and skillfully and thoroughly executed. There has been no indecision nor delay, and few if any errors in judgment. The rights of individuals have been carefully considered with reference to the best interests of the district as a whole; and so much care and good judgment has been exercised in every detail of the work that the district has been involved in no litigation; something most remarkable, and which reflects the highest credit upon the wisdom, sagacity and sense of justice of the attorney for the district, the judge and the commissioners. No other drainage district, small or large, can show such a record, although the Inlet Swamp Drainage District encountered all the troubles and difficulties that have beset any other drainage district, and met and peacefully settled some difficulties of a serious nature, encountered by no other district yet organized.

Many precedents have been established for other districts to follow; and the proceedings as a whole will be found of great historic value as well as of historic interest. The work will remain a monument to the foresight, perseverance and good judgment of the men who organized it, and the men who have borne a part in planning, directing and executing it.

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## HISTORICAL REVIEW OF THE ENTERPRISE

By A. C. Bardwell.

In the eastern section of Lee county is a large body of land known as "Inlet Swamp" which until recent years was not only of little worth, but seriously depreciated the tracts that bordered it. The more depressed portions were submerged in wet seasons, so that large areas were converted into lakes and ponds. The prevailing growth in this part of the tract was slough grass horse high, cattail, bullrushes and the like. The land coming within this class had no market value. In dry seasons the finer grades of slough grass were cut for hay, but in wet seasons hunters enjoyed the only revenue. It is difficult to estimate the acreage in the slough proper, but it was probably not less than ten thousand acres.

A marvelous change has been wrought in all this section by the organization of Inlet Swamp Drainage District and the work it has been carrying on and has brought to final completion this winter. The district was organized in the county court of Lee county, the Hon. R. S. Farrand, judge presiding, by an order entered Aug. 5, 1887, the petition therefor having been filed on the 10th day of the preceding November. Much bitter opposition was aroused and every conceivable obstacle interposed by a large element of the interested landowners, who seemed to labor under the conviction that the movement was destined to result in virtual confiscation of their property. The feasibility and utility of the scheme was doubted by many who believed that the cost of the work would greatly overmatch the benefits to be derived, but now that the hopes of the most sanguine have been realized, the work is generally regarded as a great success. In view of developments, it seems unaccountable now, that the undertaking should have met the antagonism it did from the very landowners who have since reaped rich benefits in yearly incomes from once unsalable property, and in the consequent enhancement of values.

Though little has been said or known about this work outside the immediate vicinity where it has been going on, and aside from occasional articles in the *Amboy Journal* and brief references to it in other papers and the formal legal notices appearing as required, the press has been silent regarding it; the fact is that no public work ever carried forward in Lee county compares with it in magnitude of wealth created or reclaimed. It has raised whole farms from the mire, and converted an unsightly, pestilential swamp into a rich agricultural district, where lands unsalable before are bringing from sixty dollars to eighty dollars an acre.

It has added an average of nearly 40 per cent to the assessable value of the lands within the district. By towns the increase has been as follows:

Alto	from \$11,798 in 1886 to \$14,722 in 1899
Bradford	from 21,791 in 1886 to 34,010 in 1899
Lee Center	from 26,219 in 1886 to 32,420 in 1899
Willow Creek	from 6,228 in 1886 to 6,402 in 1899
Viola	from 59,177 in 1886 to 120,083 in 1899
Reynolds	from 28,556 in 1886 to 47,569 in 1899
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	\$183,769                      \$255,206

The increase in actual market value, as indicated by the price at which lands have been sold and are now selling, is very much greater than these figures would indicate.

The process by which such beneficent results have been accomplished may, therefore, be a matter of public interest, and it is due to those who have encouraged and supported the enterprise, as well as to the officers who have borne the burdens of the task and surmounted its many difficulties and discouragements, that the story of the task be told.

The district embraces 30,079 acres, all of which was found by the court to need drainage, although much was fair pasture and hay land in other than wet years. The four main ditches or channels have a total length of thirty-two miles, into which empty over seven and one-half miles of smaller ditches and "laterals."

Preliminary to the order organizing the district the court appointed E. C. Parsons, Wesley Steward and John Nelles, commissioners to lay out the proposed ditches and report plans, profiles and estimates, including the probable cost of the work. They



first called to their assistance the county's old reliable engineer, William McMahon, Esq., but he soon discovered that he could not go on with the work to the end. Mr. A. E. Rutledge, a thoroughly competent young engineer of Rockford, took his place and Mr. McMahon contributed such counsel as was needed. As far as weather would permit advantage was taken of the frozen condition of the ponds the following winter to make the surveys, and on April 21, 1887, the commissioners submitted their report. The engineer estimated that the proposed district drained a watershed of about one hundred and fifteen thousand acres, and that the construction of the ditches as located by his survey would require the removal of 1,544,817 cubic yards of earth and 79,700 cubic yards of stone. The commissioners reported that the work, including all expenses of the district, would probably reach \$185,000. When the report came up for hearing the protestants were numerous. Every available lawyer in the county, and some from neighboring counties, were enlisted and the court room was crowded with indignant landowners from far and near, clamoring for protection against what was characterized as a high-handed outrage on the part of the commissioners.

After patient hearing the court ordered the commissioners to estimate and report the probable cost of a modified system, terminating the "Main Ditch" 2,600 feet below the Birdsall bridge, instead of at the Badger dam, as recommended by the commissioners, lessening the depth and width of the rock cut at Inlet, generally contracting the size of the ditches throughout the district and reducing the estimated material to be removed to 640,000 cubic yards of earth and 10,400 cubic yards of stone. The commissioners reported the probable cost of such work at \$67,000. On the basis of this report the court granted the order organizing the district, the purpose being to construct the ditches according to the modified system. Time has shown that the one first advanced by the commissioners should have been followed, but public sentiment in that as in most matters had to be educated up to the point of wisdom. Drainage was then in its infancy and must needs slowly win its way to public favor, as it has most triumphantly done. The ditches, as at last constructed, conform substantially to the lines and dimensions laid down by these first commissioners and their young engineer.

The contract to do this first work was let Feb. 15, 1888, in two portions, the larger to Pollard & Goff who sublet it to McGillis & Company, the lesser to Gilbert F. Henning.

A jury composed of William McMahon, foreman, J. C. Howlett, James Kirby, John Fruit, John Holdren, Abram Bennett, Jerome Bennett, John Nass, George Carey, G. A. Lyman, E. W. Pomeroy and James King, was impaneled to spread the assessment on the lands of the district for the required \$67,000. This work was done during the fall of 1887, and was very thoroughly performed, every tract throughout the entire district being inspected carefully by the jury in a body, the work covering a period of nearly three months. The land in tracts was classified in proportion to the benefits to be received from the drainage—from 5 to 100; that is, those tracts receiving the least benefit were marked 5, the next in order of benefits 10, and so on, the tract receiving the greatest benefit being marked 100. The \$67,000 was then apportioned to each tract from these figures according to the number of acres in a tract. Work was begun and was pushed vigorously during the year 1888.

A year later, Feb. 15, 1889, the commissioners made a report, based on the actual result of the year's work, to the effect that the first assessment would fall short of completing the ditches, and asking for a second assessment. After due hearing at which the prior opposition was renewed, the court ordered an assessment of \$17,000 to finish the work undertaken, and a jury to make the same was again impaneled, composed of William McMahon, foreman, J. C. Howlett, Jerome Bennett, A. J. Tompkins, Abram Bennett, John Holdren, James Kirby, John Fruit, George Carey, John Nass, G. A. Lyman and A. B. Fitch, and their labors were confirmed by the court May 6, 1889. In the course of that summer the ditches were completed.

Aug. 3, 1891, the court ordered the commissioners to extend an assessment of \$2,800 for purposes of repair, and their action was confirmed by the court Dec. 7, 1891.

As the season went by it became more and more apparent to the commissioners and to the ardent friends of the work, that the ditches were entirely inadequate to thoroughly drain the swamp and give the owners of lands the relief sought. The swamp was a vast basin of wet or soggy land, dominated by ledges of rock at Inlet, the only place of escape. The level of water was gauged by the lowest point in this barrier. Below this the water saturating the soil could not fall, excepting by evaporation, any more than a full barrel could empty itself. As completed, the opening through the rock was eighteen feet wide at bottom, and about

five feet deep. Through this aperture the floods of the rainy seasons were compelled to pass, and it was impossible for the water to get away quickly enough and lower the water level in the soil sufficiently to render the wetter lands reliable for tillage. This was evident to any unprejudiced person.

With the hope of remedying this radical defect the commissioners petitioned the court, July 18, 1893, for authority to widen the rock cut to the width of twenty-four feet at bottom and to deepen it four or five feet, and to extend the "Main Ditch" to the Badger dam to secure the necessary fall. But at the hearing the opposition on the part of many of the landowners was so stubborn that the court was compelled to refuse the petition of the commissioners; and thus did the contesting landowners once more accomplish the temporary defeat of thorough drainage, and postpone the benefits ultimately to be attained. It will be seen that at no time was it the fault of the commissioners that the system stopped short of the highest efficiency; but by a strange blindness to self-interest, and an unaccountable disrespect of the law which prevents water from running up hill, the contesting proprietors obstinately set themselves against the necessary improvements. This was in 1893. At this writing (December, 1900) an outlet of much greater capacity than here proposed is carrying away the water of the district.

Restive under the restraints and losses inflicted by a policy so short-sighted, a number of owners of lands in the district, residing in the central part of the state where the value of drainage had been demonstrated, generously offered to pay the expense of widening the rock cut. The proposition was submitted to the court and the commissioners were authorized to accept the proffer and do the work. The cut was thus made twenty feet wider down to a line within a few feet of the bottom at a cost to these people of \$10,241.81, for which they have received no reimbursements other than the benefits resulting to their holdings in common with the rest of the lands of the district. These non-resident landowners were represented by Mr. E. F. Nichols of Delevan, Ill., whose intelligent judgment and persistent labors in supporting the commissioners and promoting the interests of the district deserve to be here recognized as well nigh invaluable.

In July, 1895, the commissioners reported a shortage of funds needed to keep the ditches in good condition; that trees were becoming rooted and bars were forming. After due notice and hearing the court impaneled a jury to levy a fourth assessment



amounting to \$9,000 on the lands of the district—James Kirby, foreman, Abram Bennett, Warren Smith, Dennis Bradshaw, John M. Sterling, F. E. Rogers, George Carey, W. B. Merriman, Hiram Hetler, M. M. Avery, H. E. Chadwick and W. W. Gilmore, comprised the jury. Their work was confirmed by the court Nov. 4, 1895.

In 1897 the commissioners made a third and successful effort to extend and enlarge the outlet and increase the capacity of all the ditches to proportions adequate to carry off the water as quickly as possible. Proper profiles, plans and estimates were made and presented to the court with their petition May 19, 1897. It was noticeable on the hearing of this petition that the grounds of opposition had shifted. The ditches had been for years arguing the cause of drainage, and their logic had compelled recognition. Now the question did not turn on the advisability of greater capacity and swifter flow, but on the adjustment of the tax among the different owners.

On the hearing of this petition the court found "that it is necessary that the ditches of the district be widened, extended and deepened, as hereinafter ordered, in order to secure the proper drainage of the lands of the district;" and that "the probable cost of said work, together with charges and expenses necessarily incident thereto will be fifty-five thousand dollars." Accordingly the court ordered the commissioners, June 7, 1897, to extend an assessment of that amount on the lands of the district for the purpose of lowering the cut through the rock four to five feet and widening it to the width of thirty feet and extending the "Main Ditch" to a point 100 feet below the Kreiter dam and lowering correspondingly the North Ditch, Fourth Ditch, Middle Ditch and South Ditch, as well as certain laterals. This work has now been completed; and thus has been vindicated, by both court and public sentiment, after a long and often disheartening struggle, the policy recommended by the first commissioners and their engineer and advocated by their successors. The loss caused by its belated victory has fallen on the property owners.

This fifth assessment made by the commissioners was confirmed by the court Sept. 13, 1897, and on the 16th day of the same month the contract for the work was let to John W. Boyer of North Manchester, Ind. Mr. Boyer's prosecution of the work was so dilatory and unsatisfactory that the commissioners rescinded their contract with him and relet the job to Mr. John E. Burke of Chicago at the same figures. Notwithstanding the many unex-



pected difficulties encountered by reason, principally, of unfavorable weather, he hung manfully to his task and fulfilled his contract to the letter, except in the date of completion, which was extended as the necessities of the situation required. Mr. Burke's work showed him to be a thoroughly reliable contractor.

But the money raised by the fifth assessment proved insufficient to finish the job and the commissioners were forced to petition the court for a sixth assessment. After due hearing, at which many landowners appeared, the court ordered that \$15,000 more be raised to complete the work and repair the ditches. This order was entered Jan. 13, 1900, and a jury to extend the assessment was impaneled, consisting of James Kirby, foreman, Jesse Cole, Hiram Hetler, Edward Lamb, Abram Bennett, E. L. Thorp, F. L. Childs, F. E. Rogers, Frank Messer, George W. Smith, William V. Jones and B. F. Lane, whose assessment was confirmed by the court July 6, 1900.

The ditches of the system being now finally completed it only remains to maintain them in such condition as will render them most serviceable. The assessments aggregate \$165,800, and this plus the contribution mentioned must be set down as the cost of ditches to date, less such portion of the last assessment as will be left for repair purposes.

The work done under the contract with Pollard & Goff was at the rate of ten to twelve cents (according to locality) per cubic yard for earth, fifty-five cents for stone and thirty-five cents for hardpan. The rate under the contract with Henning was nine and one-half to twelve cents (according to locality) per cubic yard for earth, twenty-five cents for stone and hardpan; but the Pollard & Goff contract embraced all the rock and hardpan work. Under all the contracts with Boyer and Burke the price was ten cents per cubic yard for earth, fifty-five cents for stone and forty cents for hardpan. The three contracts were let to the lowest bidder and were considered to be very favorable to the district. In each instance there was sharp competition among contractors seeking the job.

The assessments were made payable in installments. The last installment of the several assessments fall due as follows: Of the first in 1902; of the second in 1895; of the third in 1896; of the fourth in 1900; of the fifth in 1912; of the sixth in 1905. Of the first assessment \$21,000 of the principal has been paid, \$12,000 of principal will be paid this year (1900), \$15,000 in 1901, and the balance, \$19,000, in 1902. The second and third assessments have

been fully paid. The last installment (\$630) of the fourth assessment will be paid this year. The sixth assessment is payable in three installments, of \$5,000 each, in 1903, 1904 and 1905. The fifth assessment is divided into nine installments, payable each year commencing in 1906 and ending in 1912. The policy of the court in so adjusting the several assessments was to postpone the heavier payments until such time as the owners would be receiving the benefits of the work. The amount due this year, including interest, is substantially the same as last. Next year it will be \$1,600 more and in 1902 the climax will be reached, the amount then falling due with interest being \$20,140. After that the burden, exclusive of interest, which will lessen with every payment, will average about \$7,000 a year (not taking into account payments made in advance), or about 25 per cent more than the rate of 1897. The assessments all draw interest at the rate of 6 per cent per annum.

Inasmuch as the payment of the assessments was postponed, and it was necessary to have funds available to pay contractors and meet the general expenses of the district, the court directed the commissioners to borrow money on the bonds of the district, payable out of the several assessments when collected, except the last. Of this last assessment \$8,945.39 has already been paid by the landowners and they have received their releases from further liability on account of the sixth assessment.

Six series of bonds have been issued, all bearing interest at 6 per cent per annum, but all except the first issue of \$6,000 were sold at such a premium as in effect reduced the interest much below this rate.

The tax on the lands of the district if distributed equally would be approximately five dollars and fifty cents per acre, but as the constant effort has been to adjust the load according to benefits, many tracts are charged with much more and many much less than this. The record shows that the largest total assessment paid by any one is ten dollars and forty cents per acre.

The work of the civil engineers who laid out the ditches and supervised their construction has been from the first extremely satisfactory. Mr. G. H. T. Shaw of Dixon succeeded Mr. Rutledge, and by his ability and fairness has added to a well earned reputation in both respects.

Josiah Little, the old-time and always reliable banker of Amboy, was early appointed treasurer of the district and still securely holds the purse, the details of the office being discharged by his efficient cashier, Mr. F. N. Vaughan.

The district has been fortunate in its comparative immunity from litigation. Portentous clouds gathered in the early days, and various mutterings such as the lawyers of the county combined were capable of, disturbed the air, but in due time the clouds drifted away, the threatenings subsided, and calm prevailed. One landowner appealed from the assessment of damages awarded him. The contest ended with the verdict of a jury in the county court.

The failure of Glann & McDonald, subcontractors under Boyer, to comply with the terms of the contract, and their abandonment of the job leaving workmen and material—men unpaid—forced the commissioners again into court. Something over \$2,000 was due Boyer on final settlement. Glann & McDonald insisted that the money should be paid to them, and the people whom they owed also contended for it; while Boyer, who was disposed to pay the men, but refused to pay the defaulting subcontractors, demanded the money. Under this sort of cross-fire the commissioners were compelled to bring an interpleader suit in the circuit court whereby the rights of the contestants should be determined. Glann & McDonald, claiming to be non-residents, removed the case to the United States Court in Chicago, where it is still pending.

In extending the ditches beyond the original boundaries of the district as required by the court's order of Jan. 7, 1897, it was necessary to condemn the right of way or acquire it by purchase. Not being able to come to an agreement with the owner of the Badger dam, the destruction of which was necessary, a jury was called to assess the damage. Only one other contest has been experienced. Indeed it was the only genuine lawsuit in the history of the district, and was occasioned by the erection of a temporary dam at Inlet to produce backwater sufficient to float the dredges. A portion of the farm of Austin Willis was overflowed and he sued the commissioners personally as well as in their official capacity for damages. He recovered in the circuit court, but the appellate court reversed the judgment and dismissed the suit. A. C. Bardwell, of Dixon, has been the attorney for the district from the first. The organization was effected, all assessments were made and all bonds were issued under his direction, and he has had charge of whatever litigation has occurred. It may be fairly said that he has always faithfully seconded the commissioners in their policy of patience and conciliation, by



which the district has been safely steered through and beyond the shoals of complicating litigation which frequently threatened it.

But credit for the successful development of Inlet Swamp Drainage District is chiefly due to the court and the commissioners—a court that had faith in the possibilities of drainage and at the same time proper regard for the views of the land-owners and commissioners who were steadfast in their purpose to accomplish the thorough drainage of the lands of the district. It, doubtless, would have been much more economical if the required funds had been raised in one or two assessments instead of six, and greatly to the benefit of the proprietors if the work as first proposed could have all been done under the first contract; but conditions which could not be ignored demanded a slower, though more expensive process.

As already noted the first commissioners (the ones who may be justly said to have laid the foundations of the work) were E. C. Parsons of Dixon, Wesley Steward of Steward and John Nelles of Viola. On the organization of the district the court appointed William S. Frost of Bradford, Henry B. Cobb of Viola and Wesley Steward, their successors. Frost was made president and Steward secretary. The board as thus constituted continued without changes until Sept. 12, 1899, when Xavier F. Gehant was appointed in Mr. Steward's place, and succeeded him as secretary. They have all accounted to the county court for every dollar of the funds expended by them, and every expenditure, item by item, will be found spread upon the records of the court, where he may read who cares. That these several commissioners should each be somewhat proud of their part in the work as finally consummated is not strange. No better nor more enduring monument marks the faithful services of public officers in Lee county.

In 1901 the 30,000 acres comprising and bordering the old Inlet Swamp will take their place among the most productive and valuable agricultural districts in the county to which they belong. The only solicitude now to be indulged is that a network of drainage on which so much has been expended may not be properly cared for. If not kept clear of the industrious and prolific willow, and if bars are allowed to form, its service will rapidly decline and the lands will suffer accordingly. It is to be hoped that in maintaining the ditches up to the highest state of usefulness the commissioners will receive the active cooperation of all persons interested therein.







JOHN DIXON

## CHAPTER XVI

### JOHN DIXON

By Henry S. Dixon

John Dixon was born at Rye, Westchester county, New York, Oct. 9, 1784. His father, likewise named John Dixon, was a native of Newcastle on Tyne, England, and came to America during the War of the Revolution as an officer in the British Army. He married an American woman named Elizabeth Purdy, and did not return to England after the war but remained in Westchester county, New York, until his death. It is said that the wife of the first John Dixon was disinherited by her parents because of her marriage to the British officer. Of this marriage ten children were born, viz.: Thomas Dixon, James Dixon, Phoebe Dixon Minuse, John Dixon, Elizabeth Dixon Boyd, Margaret L. Dixon, Catherine Dixon Fisher and three others whose names are now unknown.

The birth place of the first American John Dixon was at his parent's residence, then on the North Street road, a few rods back from the Boston post road, and afterwards known as the "Corning" property, in the Village of Rye. It is said that the first house from the post road, on the northeast side, which was still standing as late as 1886 is the identical house in which he was born, but there is no certainty as to this. It is certain, however, that it was upon this same property the house of his birth stood, and the house in question is either the Corning cottage or a house remembered by old residents of Rye which stood in the hollow behind the bluff on which the Corning house stands and which was taken down years ago.

John Dixon, married Rebecca Sherwood of Peekskill, N. Y., at New York city in 1808. He had removed from Rye to New York city in 1805 and engaged in the business of clothing merchant and merchant tailor, his place of business being on Chatham street. He

was one of the founders of the Young Men's Bible Society of New York, which was organized Feb. 16, 1809. There is still in existence a paper in the hand writing of John Dixon, giving the names of the first officers of this Society which reads as follows:

"Members of the Young Men's Bible Society of N. Y.: Cha. C. Andrews, president; Griffith P. Griffiths, vice president; Henry Johnson, secretary; William Colgate, treasurer; Board of Directors, Francis Hall, Edward Gilbert, Jr., John Dixon, Benjamin G. Barker, Joseph George, Jr., Charles Mais, Asa Whitney, David McClure, Instituted Feb. 16, 1809. Mr. Samuel Colgate, No. 55 John street, N. Y."

During his residence in New York Mr. Dixon became well acquainted with Robert Fulton and was one of the party who took passage on the Clermont on the occasion of its first trial trip, at which time he paid Fulton one dollar for his fare and which payment was without doubt the first money paid by anyone for transportation as a passenger on a steam driven vessel.

In 1820 Mr. Dixon sold his business and departed for the West. He was accompanied by Mrs. Dixon and their children, James P., John W., and Elijah, by his sister Elizabeth Boyd and her husband Charles S. Boyd. The party left New York with a single covered wagon drawn by a team, whether of oxen or horses is now unknown, although it is a matter of family history that an ox team was the motive power, and passing through the States of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, in due time reached Pittsburg. The household goods of the two families were not taken overland, but were shipped by vessel to New Orleans and thence up the Mississippi river to Illinois.

At Pittsburg a flat boat was purchased for the sum of \$30. They partitioned off a part of the boat for living quarters and stored their wagon, oxen or horses and other goods in the other part and floated off down stream. When they reached Cincinnati they stopped for a short time to rest and purchase provisions, among other things getting a barrel of flour at the cost of two dollars and sixty-two and one-half cents, as some documents now in the possession of the family show. At Cincinnati they engaged a pilot to take the boat through the Ohio River rapids, which were passed in safety, and Shawneetown, in the State of Illinois, was finally reached. The time occupied in the journey from New York city to Shawneetown was seventy days. The boat used on the Ohio river trip was sold for \$5 and the party went overland to Madison county where they stopped for a time at the place known as the



“Marine Settlement,” so called because it was first settled by retired sea captains and mates.

The Marine Settlement was located between the east and west forks of Silver creek, in Madison county, about twelve miles east of Edwardsville. Here they made inquiry concerning the country and soon went on to a point on Fancy creek in what is now Sangamon county about eight miles north of the present city of Springfield and near the present village of Sherman.

John Dixon and his family remained at this place until 1824. Until 1823 the nearest postoffice was Edwardsville, about eighty miles distant and the mail for the settlers in that neighborhood was carried by Mr. Dixon from Edwardsville in a hack which he would send down there whenever he could secure a load of passengers.

Sangamon county was established by an act of the General Assembly passed Jan. 30, 1821, and three county commissioners were elected who qualified as such on April 3, 1821. On April 10, 1821, a county commissioner's court was held at the house of John Kelly, on the waters of Spring creek, at the present site of the city of Springfield. Mr. Dixon was the foreman of the first grand jury impaneled in this county after its organization, at the court held at the Kelly house.

Soon thereafter Peoria county was organized embracing all of the territory in the northern part of the state. Judge Sawyer in the year 1825 requested Mr. Dixon to take the appointment of circuit clerk of that county, which he did and became the first incumbent of that office. About the same time he was appointed by Governor Coles as recorder of deeds of that county and he removed to what was then called Fort Clark, now Peoria. While living there he was elected justice of the peace of Peoria county and duly commissioned by Gov. Ninian Edwards, his commission as such, which is still in existence, being dated Sept. 6, 1827.

While living at Peoria, Mr. Dixon became a rather extensive contractor for the carrying of the mails and there is still in existence a copy of a settlement made by him with Col. E. B. Clemson for services rendered in such matters which reads as follows:

“Lebanon, Jan. 23, 1830.

“E. B. Clemson, to John Dixon, Dr.

“For carrying the mail on Route 529, from  
Springfield to Peoria, for the quarter end-  
ing Sept. 30, 1829, at \$500 per annum. . . . \$125.00

“For ditto on Route 530, from Peoria to  
Galena, for the quarter ending Sept. 30,  
at \$900 per annum ..... 225.00

“For ditto on Route 142, from Danville to  
Fort Clark, for the quarter ending Sept.  
30, at \$300 per annum..... 75.00

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\$425.00

Cr.

“By payments made up to this date..... \$192.32

“By land script to be remitted to said Dixon  
at Springfield, say on or before the 31st  
instant ..... 160.00

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\$352.32

“Balance due ..... \$ 72.68

“To my order on Governor Edwards at sight  
in full of said account..... \$ 72.68

“Settled Jan. 23, 1830,

“E. B. CLEMSON.”

During the period covered by his mail contracts Mr. Dixon sometimes did the carrying himself, but the greater part of the driving was done by men hired by him for that purpose and by his sons, particularly his son, James P. Dixon.

The only river of any importance between Peoria and Galena was the Rock river. This offered a great obstacle to the carrying of the mail and in order to afford safe passage it was desirable that a ferry be maintained. In the year 1827 a man by the name of J. L. Bogardus of Peoria, established a ferry across this stream at the present site of the city of Dixon, but he remained only a short time, when he was driven away by the Indians.

There was even at that early date a considerable travel from Fort Clark to the lead mines at Galena and the Indians resented the intrusion of the white man who would take away from them the ferry monopoly that they then had. Bogardus had built a log

hut said to have been about 8x10 feet in dimension and two workmen employed by him had the ferry boat nearly completed when the Indians attacked them and burned their boat, the workmen leaving the country without any delay.

In 1828 a French Indian half-breed named Joseph Ogee erected a cabin on the bank of the river at the present site of Dixon and operated a ferry there until 1830. Ogee's wife was a half-breed Pottawatomie woman by the name of Madeline. She was the daughter of a Frenchman named LaSallier, who was probably the first white man to make his home on the banks of the Rock river. LaSallier built a trading post on the south side of what is now known as the Franklin creek, about thirty or thirty-five rods from the Rock river. This point is in Lee county and across the river from the present village of Grand Detour and about five miles northeast of the city of Dixon. The ruins of this cabin were visible as late as 1835, when they were observed by Joseph Crawford, one of the early settlers of Dixon. LaSallier was one of the agents of the American Fur Company.

Joseph Ogee, the son-in-law of LaSallier is known to have been in Illinois as early as in 1823, on June 4 of which year he obtained a license from Fulton county to operate a tavern. He lived in Peoria in March, 1825, and owned the house in which the county commissioners of that county held their first meeting. He was on the first panel of petit jurors of that county and is believed to have been the representative of the American Fur Company, at its trading house at what is now Wesley City.

In the spring of 1828 Ogee came to the Rock river. His wife being of Indian blood he was permitted to establish and operate his ferry without being molested or driven away as Bogardus and his employees had been.

Ogee continued to operate the ferry alone until Nov. 21, 1829, when he sold a half interest therein to George Schellenger, who is described as a resident of Jo Daviess county, for which Schellenger paid \$700, and they became partners in the enterprise and remained such for a few weeks. On Jan. 29, 1830, the partnership was dissolved and Ogee bound himself to pay to Schellenger \$1,060 for his half interest in the establishment, to be paid \$100 in thirty days, \$60 on or before the first of the next September, \$400 in twelve months and \$500 in two years, and gave to the latter his chattel mortgage on the ferry premises, which mortgage was filed in the office of the recorder of Jo Daviess county at Galena on Feb. 18, 1830, and recorded in Book A, pages 71, 72 and 73.

Endorsed on the back of the mortgage was an assignment by Schellenger to Laurent Rolette for an expressed consideration of \$900. There also appears on the same instrument an undated receipt, signed by Laurent Rolette and Joseph Rolette, by J. P. Nash, their attorney in fact, acknowledging receipt from John Dixon of the sum of \$400 by note at ninety days "in full satisfaction and liquidation of the within mortgage."

In 1828 Mr. Dixon with his family left Peoria and located at what was called Boyd's Grove in what is now Bureau county, where they made their home near the family of his brother-in-law, Charles S. Boyd, until their removal to the present site of the city of Dixon.

In March, 1830, Mr. Dixon made a lease of the ferry from Ogee with its rights, privileges and appurtenances and soon thereafter moved to Ogee's Ferry, as it was then called, with his wife and family, reaching there April 11, 1830. He continued to operate the ferry under this lease until Jan. 27, 1832, when he purchased it for the sum of \$550, giving to Ogee two notes, one for \$150 and one for \$400, both due in four months after date and assuming the lien of the Schellenger mortgage. The deed conveying the ferry property was filed for record in the office of the recorder of Jo Daviess county and recorded in Book A, pages 163 and 164, on March 1, 1832.

Ogee at about the time he purchased the Schellenger interest in the ferry was evidently being pressed by his creditors for there is still in existence another chattel mortgage given by him. This mortgage is dated Feb. 10, 1830, and conveys to Laurent Rolette to secure a debt of the firm of Ogee & Schellenger amounting to the sum of \$258.02 and the individual debt of Ogee to Rolette of \$84.35, the following property belonging to Ogee, to-wit: "The equal and undivided half of a team of five horses, waggon and harnis of the value of \$250 (the other half of said team, waggon and harnis being held by a cimelar artical to this by the firm of Henry Gratiot and company) \* \* \* and also four fether beds and beding complete, towit, one pair of sheets, one pair of pillows and slips, one blanket, one quilt and stand of curtains to each bed and each bed of the value of eighteen dollars and fifty nine cents, one whipsaw of the value of twelve dollars and one cross cut saw of the value of six dollars."

Ogee remained in the neighborhood of the Rock river for a few years after selling the ferry as is evidenced by charges against him for goods purchased of John Dixon and noted in his account book which is in the writer's possession, under date of May 13 and June



3, 1832. Later than the last date his history and future whereabouts are now unknown.

The entry in question is found at page 52 of the account book and reads as follows:

“Jos. Ogee— Dr.

“1832.

“May 13, To boarding.....	\$2.75
1/4 lb. tea.....	.37 1/2

“June 3rd, To 2 lbs. beeswax.....	.37 1/2
1 sack.....	.25
Tin beeswax and nails to mend canoe....	1.00”

Ogee had built a log cabin near the ferry landing, and Mr. Dixon after his arrival added to the building. The ferry landing as operated by both Ogee and Dixon was at what is now the foot of Peoria avenue in the city of Dixon. The log house stood about three hundred feet south of the river bank near the present intersection of Peoria avenue and First street and upon what is now lots 5 and 6 in block 7 of the original town of Dixon.

The log cabin was in two parts, a one-story structure erected by Ogee and a two-story portion built by Mr. Dixon. Between the two houses and forming a part of the one-story building was a ten or twelve-foot hallway with a door at either end, facing the north and south. Entering the hall from the south, on the west was the family sitting room and on the east the travelers' and hired helps' rooms, each about eighteen feet square. The furniture of the west room consisted of two beds, a number of chairs and a table extending nearly across the room. The east room contained four beds, one in each corner. Father Dixon lived here until 1836 or 1837 when he moved to a house which stood a few rods southeast of the present location of the Chicago & Northwestern railway station. The original log cabin stood until 1845, when it was destroyed.

The store room in which he traded with the Indians was in the east part of the cabin, in the two-story portion, and there he sold powder, lead, shot, tobacco, pipes, cloth, blankets, guns, beads, traps, etc., or exchanged them for furs and deer skins, which he would ship to St. Louis, Peoria or Galena.

When John Dixon reached the Rock river and established his house at Ogee's ferry he was forty-six years of age, strong, hearty, vigorous and thoroughly acquainted with the frontier. He had

had ten years experience in the West. He had traveled the then new State of Illinois from one end to the other on horseback and on foot. He had met and lived with and among the Indians, had become their friend, and was recognized by them as such. Though in the prime of life and in the best of health his hair was white and was worn long, giving him the appearance of age. The Winnebago Indians, with whom he was always on terms of friendship, called him, "Nada-chu-ra-sah," or "Head-hair-white," which term in common speech was soon contracted to "Nachusa." The early white settlers not long after Mr. Dixon's arrival at the Rock river began to call him "Father" Dixon and from thence on he was so termed and in speaking of him since his death it is usual to so characterize him. An old friend and early settler, John K. Robison said: "His personal appearance was almost unchanged from 1827 to 1876, his hair being white during all those years; age dealt kindly with him."

In addition to operating the ferry Mr. Dixon carried on the business of an Indian trader, exchanging blankets, knives, guns, powder, traps, cloth and other necessities for furs and selling or trading such articles to the white settlers as well. He also conducted a tavern in his cabin and kept overnight the travelers to and from the Galena lead mines.

In 1827 or 1828 Charles S. Boyd and his family moved from Springfield to Boyd's Grove in the present county of Bureau and about the same time O. W. Kellogg and family settled first at Kellogg's Grove in Stephenson county; later at Buffalo Grove, in order to be near the Dixons. Buffalo Grove is now a part of the town of Polo, Ogle county and twelve miles from Dixon. The Dixon, Boyd and Kellogg families were the first permanent white settlers in the territory between Peoria and Galena. After that settlers became more numerous, a few locating in the neighborhood of the ferry and others at eligible spots in the neighboring country.

Ogee's settlement was first known as Ogee's Ferry and a post-office by that name established, a man by the name of Gay being the first postmaster. Mr. Dixon was appointed postmaster of Ogee's Ferry by commission dated Sept. 29, 1830. Afterwards in 1834 the name was changed to Dixon's Ferry and he was appointed postmaster of that place and served as postmaster until 1837.

The log cabin of his son James P. Dixon, which stood on the south side of First street between Galena avenue and Ottawa avenue and which was built in 1834 was for many years, in part used

as a postoffice. It had a room built on the side as a "lean-to" about 10x10 feet, where the postoffice was kept. Before that time the postoffice was at the John Dixon cabin.

Reference is several times made in this sketch to John Dixon's account book. Two books were kept by him and are still in existence. One is an account of sales and other transactions with the Indians and whites and begins very soon after he settled on the Rock river. The entries in the other book are principally during and immediately after the Black Hawk war period.

The first entry in the older of the two books is as follows:

"Wm. Kirkpatrick, Dr.

"1830.

"April 29, Self and horse one night and ferriage N. .... 1.25

"May 10, Same S. .... 1.25

"Oct. 21, Self and father in-law and horses, one night and ferriage .... 2.50

"Led horse ferriage and keeping and 2 buckskins .... 2.75

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\$8.25"

The name of Joseph Ogee appears frequently in this book the first entry under date of April 29, 1830, with many others on pages 27-28, 47 and 48, and the aggregate charges against him for goods sold and money advanced being in excess of \$500. Ogee evidently had a family as is evidenced by a charge of for "2½ yds. lining for children clothes 50c," "2 caps for sons \$2.50," "2 pr. shoes for sons \$2," "2 pr. socks for sons 75c," "2 pr. mittens for sons 75c," "cash to Margaret to go to Fort \$2."

It appears that in those days muskrat skins were of considerable value as on June 28, 1830 (Book p. 16), Mr. Dixon sold forty skins at 20 cents each to H. B. Stillman and on Aug. 22, 1830, sold eighty-five more to the same person at 15 cents each and on Sept. 20, 300 more for \$60.

The usual charge for ferrying of a man and horse, as shown

by frequent entries on the book was 25 cents, for each meal 25 cents and for a night's lodging the same amount.

By this book it seems (p. 24) that on Sept. 10, 1830, he loaned to J. M. Strode, who was a character of some note in those days the sum of \$5 and afterwards on Oct. 20, made a charge against him of 62½ cents for dinner, horse feed and ferriage. There are no credits of payment of this account and indeed a large number of the accounts seem to be still due and unpaid.

On page 45 is found a record of a sale of furs to P. Menard, Jr., under date of May 30, 1831, as follows: 3 "rats" 4 "auter," 5 coon, 6 mink and "bunch rabbit."

There are a large number of entries of this character. "July 10, 1831, Edward Hall Dr. Ferriage of waggon, four yoke of oxen and one hors \$2.75. Cr. By cash \$1.00."

Many travelers were apparently ferried across the river and paid but a part of the bill as money was scarce and he took the chances of being paid the remainder some other day.

The last half of this book is made up of charges against the Indians for goods sold to them, among the names of those with whom he dealt are:

Patchunka Chief Crane.

Old Quaker.

Old Blue Socks son.

Old Grey Headed Pottawatomie.

Old Gray Heads fat son.

Tall rawboned Pottawatomie who came with the gambler.

Old White Head Pottawatomie's son.

Tall Pottawatomie.

Plump Face.

American Woman.

Chief Jarro.

Great Dancer.

Man That Has A Sick Squaw.

Wa-Wa-Cockera.

Crane's son.

Daddy Walker.

Mother Flat Face.

Ho-we-kah.

One-eye Old Man that come with Crane.

A Young Yellow Man.

Chief Crane's brother.



Blinky.  
 Raw Boned Black Face Stayed A Long Time.  
 Limpy.  
 Jarro's oldest son.  
 Old Blue Coat Man Came With Teabon.  
 Young Part White Squaw.  
 Yellow That Came With The Blind Man.  
 Sour Eads Ox.  
 Paschchunk.  
 Squirrel Cheeks.  
 Preacher.  
 Good Singer  
 Yellow Lad.  
 Blinky's brother  
 Jarro's second son.  
 Long Sober Man.  
 Daddy Walker.

The name of Chief Jarro is found the most of any and from the account it would seem that the chief has credit for having paid for what he purchased.

The following extracts are typical of the entries of the purchases made by the Indians.

“W. Lock old man (Ogee says he is good)

1 Spear .....	\$ 6
1 Steel .....	1
Corn .....	1
2 shirts .....	6
Beads .....	2
2 knives .....	2
Corn .....	2
1 gun .....	50
Mending ax .....	2
Corn .....	2

“Fat squaw many beads

Due on shirt .....	\$ 2
--------------------	------

## "Patchunka Chief Crane

Blue cloth .....	\$20
Red clo. ....	25
2 shirts .....	6
Beads .....	2
Tobacco .....	1
Powder .....	8
2 combs .....	2
2 spears .....	10
Paint .....	2"

The other account book begins in 1832 and covers a period of three or four years.

One of the names found most frequently in this book, as well as occasionally in the other one, is that of Col. William S. Hamilton, the son of Alexander Hamilton. Colonel Hamilton's account begins with July, 1832, extends to as late as May, 1835, at which date he apparently owed Mr. Dixon \$339.55 and which, at least as far as the book shows, yet remains unpaid. This bill embraces charges for cash loaned, for ferriage and for corn, pork, tin buckets, tents, flour, postage, bacon, buckskins, and other items.

H. Gratiot has also an extensive account, among other things in 1832, purchasing 853 "rats" at 25 cents each. Mr. Dixon also makes a charge against him as follows (p. 31):

"To sending to the Illinois River for two stray  
horses and bridles, etc. and sending them  
home ..... \$10."

On May 10 and 15, 1832. Col. Zachary Taylor incurred a bill amounting to \$11.50, of which only one item is stated, namely: 4 shirt patterns \$5. The shirt patterns charge is marked out, as was Mr. Dixon's custom in giving credit, but the remainder of the bill is footed up at \$6.50 and marked "settled by note."

A great many entries are found of goods furnished to the army during the Black Hawk war, for instance, among the charges on May 20, 1832, being the following:

“Col. Johnson for U. S. Gen. Atkinson      Qr. M.	
43 blankets at 4 dollars .....	\$172.00
2 do. at 3.50 .....	14.00
12 do. green at 6.50 .....	78.00
2 guns at \$8 .....	16.00
1 rifle at 20 .....	20.00
11 blankets at 3 .....	33.00
7 do. at 2.50 .....	17.50
5 do. at 2 .....	10.00
<hr/>	
\$360.50”	

## THE CHILDREN OF JOHN AND REBECCA DIXON

John and Rebecca Dixon were the parents of twelve children. The names of but five of these twelve are now known and a most diligent investigation fails to disclose the names of the remaining seven, or anything of historical value concerning them.

The oldest child was James Purdy Dixon. He was born at New York city on March 6, 1811, and came to Illinois with his parents and continued to reside in this state until his death, which occurred at Dixon on April 5, 1853. He was married to Fannie Reed at Buffalo Grove, Jo Daviess county, Illinois, Dec. 7, 1834. Fannie Reed, who was the daughter of Samuel Reed, was born at Middleton, Delaware county, New York, July 23, 1815, and died at Chicago, Illinois, Feb. 15, 1898. They were the parents of eight children.

Another son was John W. Dixon, who was born in New York city in 1816 and died at Dixon, Illinois, March 19, 1847. He married Elizabeth A. Sherwood at Dixon in 1839. She was born in New York city on Jan. 12, 1819, and died at Dixon, Jan. 27, 1895. They were the parents of three children.

Elijah Dixon was the third son of John Dixon and was born at New York city in 1817 and died at Janesville, Wisconsin, of pneumonia, on March 15, 1843. He had never married.

Franklin Dixon died at the age of sixteen at his parents' home in Dixon. Both the dates of his birth and death are unknown.

Mary L. Dixon, a daughter, the date of whose birth cannot be ascertained, married Isaac S. Boardman at Dixon in 1840, and died in 1850. They were the parents of three children.

Two children, whose names or ages can not be ascertained, died at Galena during the Black Hawk war.

A girl whose name cannot be learned died of scarlet fever at the age of three and one-half years while the family were living on what was afterwards known as the "Doctor Everett Farm" on the north side of the river, a short distance west of the city of Dixon.

In addition to the foregoing, four other children were born of this marriage whose names or places of birth or death have long ago been forgotten and of whom no record now remains.

In addition to the foregoing, practically nothing is now known or can be learned as to the life of John Dixon prior to the time when he and his family settled at Dixon's Ferry. Subsequent to that time for many years he was a historic character in Illinois. His log cabin home on the banks of Rock river was an open house for all kinds of people, Indian and white, pioneers, settlers, adventurers, indeed for all of the persons whom business, pleasure or love of the wilderness brought to the frontier. He operated the ferry, kept a tavern, acted as postmaster, was a guide, Indian trader, and in general was the leading character and first citizen of this part of Illinois.

During the early years of his life here there were no neighbors but the Indians, and the strangers passing through the country were principally en route to the lead mines in the vicinity of Galena. During this period he traded extensively with the Indians, exchanging guns, ammunition, cloth, knives, axes, and other necessities of life, for furs. This continued until after the Black Hawk war. Prior to the outbreak of this war he had established himself in the confidence of his Indian neighbors to such an extent that there was but little or no danger of harm to himself or his family even though the Indians might have been disposed to do violence to the whites in general. When Black Hawk and his followers went up the river immediately before the battle at Stillman's creek, they stopped at Dixon's Ferry and Black Hawk with others of his followers had dinner at Dixon's home, under the following circumstances:

Mr. Dixon was at Galena, having gone there before he knew that there was any probability of their leaving the vicinity of Rock Island. Mrs. Dixon was at home alone with their children. The Indians crowded in, filling the house. She sent for Old Crane, a Winnebago chief. He immediately came to her assistance and with the aid of Wischick, one of the chiefs of the Sacs and Foxes,



got the intruders out of the house. At the suggestion of Old Crane, Mrs. Dixon prepared a meal for the chiefs of the Saes and Foxes and he, Black Hawk, Wischick and Kaapapi had their dinner while the remainder of the band went into camp at the large spring on the south bank of the river nearly opposite the present site of the Dixon waterworks.

Afterwards it was thought desirable for Mrs. Dixon and her children to go to Galena and remain until peace had been restored, and she did so. John Dixon remained at the ferry for a time and later on went with the army into Wisconsin and acted as commissary, scout and otherwise until the close of hostilities. During this campaign he was in the personal service of Lieutenant-Colonel Taylor and messed with him and his officers. During this period two of the small children of Mr. and Mrs. Dixon, whose names cannot now be learned, died at Galena.

The Dixon home at the ferry was not closed during all of this period, however. Mrs. Dixon was there during a portion of the time and their sons, James and Elijah, were there or in the vicinity, so that the doors were constantly open for the entertainment and care of those who came. Many men of note during that period and others whose names are found on the pages of subsequent history spent days and sometimes weeks at this frontier cabin. Gov. John Reynolds, General Atkinson and Lieut.-Col. Zachary Taylor were the leaders at that time, and among the many others of later note were the then Lieut. Jefferson Davis, Capt. and Private Abraham Lincoln, Lieut. Robert Anderson, Edward D. Baker, Albert Sidney Johnston, Gen. Winfield Scott and his aid, Lieut. Joseph E. Johnston. In later years many of those whose names are mentioned in telling of their experiences in those days have related their kindly feeling and gratitude towards Father Dixon for his kindness to them while they were at his home.

John K. Robison in an article entitled "Early Times at Dixon's Ferry," published in 1880, has to say:

"While Father Dixon carried the United States mail from Springfield to Galena the streams were unbridged, not even 'corduroyed;' swamps undrained; roads almost impassable; houses few and far between. Snow storms were more severe and the cold more intense than in later years. In the winter of 1830 and '31 (the winter of the deep snow) the snow averaged three feet deep from New Year's day to the 15th of March. No track was kept open from one settlement to another, and it was with great difficulty that roads were kept open even in densely settled districts. Fifteen and eighteen to twenty-seven miles were the usual distances between the homes along the route. On one of the longer routes

during this memorable winter, Father Dixon and some of the stage passengers were so benumbed with cold and nearly frozen, as to be unable to get out of the conveyance. After a good warming and hot coffee, however, all were able to resume their journey.

“During the Black Hawk war Father Dixon had the contract for supplying the army with beef to the time of the final battle of the Bax Axe river. His place on the march was in the rear of the army, and from the time Wisconsin river was crossed many times he was left so far behind as to be out of supporting distance. It so happened on the march, that at one time midnight was passed before he came to camp. He was hailed by the sentinel with the snap of the lock of the gun in the sentinel’s hands, and these words: ‘Who comes there?’ Father Dixon replied: ‘Major of the Steer Battalion.’ The soldier gave the order: ‘Major of the Steer Battalion, march in.’ This sally of wit on both sides was the foundation of Father Dixon’s military title. Another time he had been off the trail hunting one of his beeves, and on again returning to the trail he suddenly found himself face to face with two Indians, who were as much astonished at the meeting as he was. It was no time for ceremony. All were armed; Father Dixon lowered his gun, and walking about five rods, gave his hand to the nearest savage, saluting him in Winnebago. The Indian replied in Winnebago. Father Dixon and both the Indians were alike overjoyed at this unexpected good fortune—Father Dixon, that he was permitted to save his scalp for another day; the Indians that they had found some one understanding their own language, under whose influence they could safely be introduced to General Atkinson, for whom they had important dispatches. Their life was in danger if seen by a soldier, and they felt their peril and were in serious embarrassment about how to approach the army.

“Father Dixon’s age, and experience with all classes of men, should have qualified him to safely criticise and distrust humanity, but he had no apprehension of imposition; he took human nature as it fell from the hands of the infinite God. His estimate never tallied with the evil; never tired of being wronged, and as a consequence he was often disappointed in men. Obliging to all, hospitable and kind to the needy and helpless in every condition, he often trusted strangers and travelers from whom he never received anything in return. It was no unusual thing, when the circumstances of travelers were told Father Dixon, for him to allow his ferry and hotel bills to remain unpaid, and to give them provisions and funds necessary to complete the journey—many dollars were

given away in this manner. His unselfishness manifested itself in good will to all men; the Indian or the child looked to him for favors and kindness and was not turned away empty.

“Mrs. Dixon was one of the few women, who could and did adorn any position in life in which she was placed. Her person was rather under size, exhibiting no marked peculiarity. She was intelligent far above the age and circumstances surrounding her, and had a warm heart and ready hand for every good word and work alike. Devout and fervent in all the holy exercises of religion and morality; ardently attached to the church to which she belonged, she gave her hand to all who bore the name and character of that great Christian body. Her moral worth, talents, virtue and her whole life, was one of devotion to Christianity. She was Solomon’s ideal of glorious womanhood before he was corrupted by the false glare and glitter of a false religion and an impure life. I record her life as the one to whom I owe more than any other, except mother and wife. As an early reminiscence of Mrs. Dixon’s rare tact and knowledge of character, shall I venture to write that in the dead of winter, preceding the Black Hawk war, the Prophet from Prophetstown, Black Hawk, and a chief from Rock Island whose name I have forgotten, held a council at Dixon’s Ferry, and then and there negotiated with the Pottawatomies for the occupancy of the Spotted Arms’ town near the present site of Rockford. Meal time came three times a day, to which the chiefs at the Council fire were invited as guests of Mrs. Dixon. She presided as waiter, and to allay any fears of her guests, sat down and ate and drank with them. The perfect lady was reminded by Black Hawk as spokesman, of her goodness, and he called the attention of the other chiefs to ‘her care and politeness to them.’ ”

Many years afterwards a bill was pending in the Senate to award Mr. Dixon a quarter section of land for services rendered during this war. Some opposition was encountered and Senator Jefferson Davis taking part in the debate did much towards securing the passage of the measure. The following extract from the debate in the Senate indicates very clearly that Senator Davis and Senator Trumbull felt well acquainted with the services rendered by Mr. Dixon in the early days:

“Mr. Lyman Trumbull: I ask that that bill may be put on its passage. I will remark that the chairman of the committee on public lands, with whom I had a conversation, stated that he reported adversely on this bill to grant a land warrant to Mr. Dixon, for the reason that the testimony before the committee did



not seem to be sufficient of his having rendered any service. He was not enlisted in the service, but he performed valuable service in the Black Hawk war—furnished supplies, and acted as a guide and interpreter. He is an old man over eighty years of age, and is now in very reduced circumstances. Some of his friends have made this application to get the old man a land warrant; and he comes, I think, within the spirit of the law. The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. Jefferson Davis) who served in that war, knows him personally, and perhaps he would make a statement to the Senate of his knowledge of the services for which it is proposed to grant a land warrant to this poor old man.

“Mr. Jefferson Davis: As stated by the Senator from Illinois, I do know this individual personally, and believe him to be a very honest man, and I should have great confidence in his statements. He was one of the first pioneers in the country near what is now the town of Dixon, formerly known as Dixon’s Ferry. He lived there in an isolated position when I first knew him. His house was reached by crossing a wide prairie country inhabited only by Indians. He was of great service in the first settlement of the country. He was of service to the troops when they ascended the Rock River in the Black Hawk War. For some time a post was established at or near his house. He was of service at that time furnishing supplies and giving information in regard to the country, and afterwards taking care of the sick. In a liberal spirit towards camp followers, we have since that time provided for packmen, for teamsters, and for clerks, giving them bounty land warrants equally with the soldiers who were serving in the same campaign. I think the only objection in this case is the want of testimony; but I have such confidence in the individual together with my recollection of the circumstances, that I would say that he was within the spirit of the law, and I should be glad because of his many services in the first settlement of that country, to see him thus rewarded.”

In 1834 a Government survey was made of the present township of Dixon and shortly thereafter Mr. Dixon entered from the Government and afterwards acquired patents to the lands now comprising the “original town” of Dixon and the “original town” of North Dixon.

In 1835 at his request, a survey and plat of the town of Dixon was made by a man by the name of Bennett, of Galena, and the original plat filed at Galena which was the county seat, Dixon then being a part of Jo Daviess county. This survey included about



forty acres of land extending from Rock river to one-half block south of Third street and from one-half block east of Ottawa avenue to one-half block west of Peoria avenue.

Afterwards, in the year 1840, a new survey and plat of the "original town" of Dixon was made by Joseph Crawford at the request of John Dixon, Smith Gilbraith, and S. M. Bowman and Lane, who owned the land which was thus subdivided, and this plat is the one that was subsequently used in the conveyance of town lots. In 1842 Mr. Dixon had Joseph Crawford survey and lay out the town of North Dixon on land belonging to him on the north side of the river.

The tracts now occupied by the courthouse square, market square and John Dixon Park were dedicated by him to public use and many lots now of great value were given away by him to settlers. When the first courthouse was built in Dixon, in addition to furnishing the site, he donated eighty acres of land which was sold and the proceeds used in helping to erect the building. Other lots were sold at small prices so as to induce settlement and building until finally he had disposed of practically all that he owned without any particular profit to himself.

In 1838 after a general system of internal improvements was adopted by the state, Mr. Dixon was appointed by Governor Duncan as one of the board of commissioners to fill a vacancy caused by the death of Colonel Stephenson and subsequently he was elected by the Legislature as a member of the board.

The State of Illinois entered into an extensive scheme of public improvement, consisting largely in the construction of railroad and of river improvements in aid of navigation. A railroad through the state was projected which, among other places, was to run via Dixon, Elkhorn Grove, and Savanna to Galena. A vast amount of work was laid out and but little completed, although a debt of over ten million dollars was incurred by the state.

From Galena to Savanna much of the grading for the proposed railroad was completed. Mr. Dixon as commissioner had charge of the payment of the wages of the men engaged on this work in northern Illinois and it was his duty to get the money at Springfield and bring it or cause it to be brought to the place where the men were employed.

He drew a draft for \$11,500 on the Treasurer at Springfield and intrusted it to a man by the name of Hamlin for collection. Hamlin made the collection and immediately absconded. Hamlin was pursued for weeks by James P. Dixon, Elijah Dixon and

Smith Gilbraith and finally captured at Baltimore, Maryland, but when arrested had disposed of the money. John Dixon in the meantime had made up the loss with his own funds and was never reimbursed for the loss.

In 1840 Mr. Dixon went to Washington to make application for the removal of the United States land office from Galena to Dixon and through the influence of his friends there with whom he had become acquainted in the Black Hawk war times he was presented to President Van Buren and secured the order for the removal of the office.

An instance of his courage and self-possession is told in connection with the early history of Ogle county. In 1838 in what is now the town of Pine Creek, in Ogle county, a claim had been "jumped" by some men who had no right of possession of the property. Courts were scarce, the law did not always afford a prompt and certain remedy for wrongs suffered, and, as a consequence, the well disposed and honest people of the frontier as it then was were obliged to enforce the law themselves without the aid of the processes of the courts.

The claim had been taken possession of by a party of men with a known reputation as lawbreakers and whose names are familiar to those acquainted with the annals of the "Banditti of the Prairie." They were notorious characters and had built a log house with loopholes for their rifles and had laid in a supply of provisions and numbered ten or twelve of the worst characters of the country.

It was thought necessary for the peace and security of the neighborhood that they be captured and their rendezvous destroyed.

Under Mr. Dixon's leadership a force was organized. The body met at Washington Grove, about two miles distant from the cabin. The men in the party gathered from Dixon, Grand Detour and Oregon, among those from Dixon being John Dixon, his son, James P. Dixon, Smith Gilbraith and others. They were armed with guns and axes and when they approached the fortified cabin were warned by the inmates that if they advanced beyond a certain limit they would be shot.

At this challenge John Dixon and Hugh Moore of Grand Detour volunteered to break in the door and they ran past the dead line up to the cabin itself, reaching it without injury. Dixon and Moore battered down the door of the cabin and the other members of their party coming up attacked the walls and roof, pulling them

down. The men inside seeing that it would be useless to continue the fight, surrendered, the building was torn to pieces and burned and its inmates escorted out of the county.

On another occasion a few years afterwards four men took possession of a log cabin standing upon a preemption claim belonging to another person near the place where the Chicago and Northwestern Railway Company station at Dixon now stands. A party armed with rifles went to dispossess them. Mr. Dixon went with the party but was armed only with his pipe. The men inside of the cabin were armed and threatened violence. Mr. Dixon alone walked up to the door of the cabin and was told to leave or he would be shot. However, he held his ground and through much patience and persuasion and long pipe smoking finally induced the inmates to surrender.

Immediately after coming to Ogee's Ferry Mr. Dixon found that the Indians were drinking whiskey to excess and he interested himself in their behalf by attempting to discourage that practice. He had ardent supporters among some of the Indian leaders and equally as determined enemies. One of the latter named Dah-Shun-Egra, while drunk, attacked and attempted to kill him with a muskrat spear. Dixon stood his ground and after a struggle disarmed the Indian, although for a time in great peril. His coolness at this time of danger and his evident willingness to fight when necessary gave him a high standing for courage with the Indians.

Mr. Dixon in his early life was a whig but became a republican when that party was formed. He attended the first republican convention at Bloomington in 1856 and made a speech at the convention at the time of the organization of the party.

The last public office held by him was that of president of the board of trustees of the town of Dixon. On March 7, 1853, he was elected as one of the trustees of the town and was by the trustees chosen as president of the board, and served as such for one year.

Mrs. Dixon died on Feb. 11, 1847, and their son John W. Dixon died but a few days thereafter, on March 19, 1847. The oldest son, James P. Dixon, died on April 5, 1853. His decease left John Dixon childless. The father of twelve children he had outlived all of them. The remainder of his life he made his home with Elizabeth A. Dixon, who was the widow of the deceased son, John W. Dixon, in North Dixon, at a house belonging to her, at the intersection of North Jefferson avenue and Bradshaw street.

For many years after the Indians left Illinois some of them came each year to visit him. This continued for years after he moved to the home in North Dixon. A delegation would come nearly every summer from their home in Wisconsin, by canoe down the Rock river. They would go from the river to his house, make a camp in his yard and remain there smoking their pipes and visiting for a few days and then take their canoes back up the river to their homes. It was on one of these visits that Father Dixon presented one of the Indians with what was said to have been the only overcoat that he ever had. He never wore an overcoat, so it is said, but in his old age some one presented him with one, but he declined to use it, claiming that he never had used and had no need for such things and as he felt that it was useless to him he presented it to his Indian friend.

Mr. Dixon was to the end of his life in excellent bodily and mental health. As late as in 1873, when eighty-nine years of age, he served on a grand jury in the United States District Court at Chicago.

Shortly before the death of Mrs. Dixon and when nearly sixty years of age he divided the greater portion of the real estate which remained in his possession between his two surviving sons, and during the remainder of his life was not particularly active in business affairs. His physical and mental vigor, however, were in a great measure retained until his decease.

In May, 1876, he was taken ill with what was to be his last sickness and in July 6, 1876, he died, at the age of ninety-one years, eight months and twenty-eight days. His body was taken to the courthouse in Dixon, where it lay in state until the funeral. In the newspapers published at that time it is stated that upwards of ten thousand persons attended the funeral, the courthouse square and the streets adjoining being crowded to such an extent that the voices of the speakers at the ceremony could not reach the outskirts of the crowd.

The Dixon Sun in reviewing his career and paying tribute to his memory, in its issue of July 12, 1876, among other things, said:

"John Dixon is dead. On the 11th of May, nature with a sudden stroke disengaged the cord that bound him; the old ferryman softly drifted away from the shore of time over the rippling waters and on last Thursday morning at half-past seven he landed on the other side—never to return. John Dixon. His name is memory. For mental gifts, mild disposition and performing purpose there



will cluster around it the same recollections that now enshrine and hallow the name of Washington. Some great men may be honored for their success, others may be praised for their achievements; but this humble man gained that which transcends all honor and exceeds all praise—that which wealth cannot command or position bestow; that which is due only to virtue and honest worth—our affection and esteem.

“We will not attempt his eulogy, it is inscribed in every heart that knew him—his deeds are a portion of the country.

“‘To live in hearts we leave behind  
Is not to die.’

“His name need not be inscribed in the Pantheon of history; as long as the waters of the Rock river continue to flow; as long as its valley blooms or this city lasts; as long as there is a pen to write or a tongue to utter; and when towering monuments with which grandeur now mourns over departed pride have lost their marble pomp and are crumbled into ruin and decay; when men now great for their wealth are forgotten and their earthly labors and deeds have perished John Dixon will live in memory, cherished and revered.”

On the day succeeding his death a public meeting was held and the following resolutions, drafted by Judge John V. Eustace, were passed and were subsequently passed and adopted at a meeting of the city council and recorded in the minutes of the proceedings of the council:

“We, the people of Dixon, called upon to mourn the departure of him who gave our city its existence and its name, desire to place among its records this testimonial of our appreciation of his virtues. His neighbors, many of us who have known him for a third of a century and who, during all that time, have looked up to him and loved him as a father, with one accord have assembled to pay this tribute to his memory.

“John Dixon, after a life extended far beyond the limit ordinarily assigned to man, at the ripe age of nearly ninety-two years, one-half of which had been passed in this town, so loved by him, which he had made, has departed from this scene of his earthly labors. He outlived all that were by the ties of blood nearest and dearest to him, his weary pilgrimage at last is ended. He has gone to them in the summer land.

“A man of great strength of mind, force of character and determination of purpose, yet he has lived and died without an enemy. Forgetful of himself he lived for others, a pure and

unselfish life. He was the noblest work of God, an honest man, and he

“ ‘So lived, that when the summons came to join  
The innumerable caravan that moves  
To that mysterious realm where each shall take  
His chambers in the silent halls of death,  
He went, not like the quarry slave, at night  
Scourged to his dungeon, but sustained and soothed  
By an unfaltering trust, approached the grave  
Like one that wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him and lies down to pleasant dreams.’

“Pure and simple-minded, faithful and true in all the relations of life, he has gone to his rest and his works do follow him.”

## CHAPTER XVII

### ALTO TOWNSHIP

Traveling northward from Willow creek, along the east county line, Alto is reached. The origin of its name does not seem to have been preserved. At all events the oldest settlers can give me no information upon the point and the so-called histories written years before overlooked that important feature.

At a meeting of the citizens of Alto township, held in the school-house of district 3, April 3, 1860, Hiram C. Holcomb was appointed chairman, Charles R. Hall was made moderator, and James Tyler, clerk. Justice H. C. Holcomb administered the oath and the polls were declared opened at 9 o'clock.

At this meeting, it was ordered that the township be divided into four road districts and that a tax levy of 40 cents on the hundred dollars be levied for road purposes. A motion was also carried to raise a tax of 2 mills on the dollar for town purposes. The long period of herding cattle had become so much of a nuisance to the increasing settlements that drastic measures were taken to compel cattle owners to fence their cattle. A motion was carried to the effect that all cattle should be kept up at night and if damage followed from leaving them at large, the owner was to pay for all damage done for the first offense and for the second offense the owner was to pay double the damage done. And to enforce the rule summarily, every man was made his own poundmaster.

Forty-seven votes were polled. C. R. Hall was elected the first supervisor; James Tyler, the first town clerk; Josiah Carpenter, the first collector; James Tyler, the first assessor; Daniel Carey and H. C. Holcomb, the first justices of the peace; Josiah Carpenter and John Dorson, the first constable; Jedediah Loneridge, the first overseer of the poor; and James A. Smith, Roan McClure and M. Mills, the first highway commissioners.

The first settlers of Alto were Mr. and Mrs. John Grimes who came to Alto in 1843 and settled near Plum Thicket, the only grove in the township. The house of Mr. Grimes, the first one built in the township, was built, we are told, in 1847, four years after he settled in the township. The second settler came in 1845 and his name was J. Wood, a Baptist preacher. He remained two or three years and then removed to Earlville. About 1852, Jedediah Loneridge came next. He remained about twenty years and removed to Nebraska. Following Loneridge, "the basket maker," came the families of James Holcomb and his father, Hubbell Williams, Mason Herrick, the Mills family, James Tyler, C. R. Hall, the Kirbys, the Stewards, the McDonalds (or McDonnells, as spelled sometimes), and the Carpenters—William F. Carpenter came to Alto in 1857.

Alto township is a prairie township and like other prairie townships, did not settle rapidly. In fact it may be said of Alto that its population was sparse until the late sixties. And it excited little attention until the railroad came through.

But since that date, Alto has given an excellent account of itself. It is a wonderfully rich township and until little Scarboro was created, Steward was the only village or city, for that matter, in Northern Illinois to market over a million bushels of grain year after year. Even now, with Scarboro feeding on its old territory, Steward has marketed 800,000 bushels of grain. In the years 1869 and 1870, when every community in Northern Illinois was agitated by the prospects (on paper) of having a railroad or two, Alto experienced those same thrills. It was said that Francis E. Hinckley desired to build a railroad from Forreston to Chicago, to run through Alto township. The rumor created great excitement of course and when it was proposed to bond the township for \$32,000, payable when cars were running over the rails, the proposition provoked the usual antagonism. Patriotism was appealed to on the one hand; the fellow who thought he was paying taxes enough, opposed the venture. A meeting was had and a vote was taken which was carried favorably to the bonds by a vote of ninety-three for, to fifty against. Grading was commenced on Monday, Sept. 26, 1870, and on Dec. 31, 1870, the road was finished to Rochelle and trains moved regularly to that point. After that date trains ran rather irregularly until April, 1871, and only one per day until 1872. The Chicago fire and the financial distress prevailing over the country interfered with the plans of the company considerably,



but eventually the Chicago and Iowa railroad came to its own and enjoyed a prosperous business.

Naturally there was a fight over the question of the bonds, but this question was compromised by the issuance and acceptance of a \$25,000 issue, and at a less rate of interest.

For a time the railroad offices and the warehouse or freight house were located in the barn of Wesley Steward.

Now, the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy company controlling the road, runs some of the most beautiful trains in the country over this line of railway. All its northwestern business is carried via that route. This service includes two beautiful through trains each way, each day. The freight traffic over it now is enormous.

In 1904, the importance of Steward was recognized by the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul company. That corporation enjoyed a joint occupancy of the strip of road running southerly out of Rockford, and when the latter company desired to reach further south into the coal fields, Steward was selected as the junctional point from which to bear off to the southwest. Immediately this new road established two new stations in Lee county. Scarboro in Willow Creek township, and Roxbury in Wyoming township. With the up-building of Steward, the township of Alto took on an unusual degree of activity. Projects of improvement in every direction were formulated, not the least of which was the extensive system of drainage more particularly mentioned in other parts of this work. But here in Alto they were agitated first and here in Alto they began to materialize under the dredge and the spade, and an Alto man, Wesley Steward, was made a member of the first drainage board of Lee county to begin those operations which since have been made so stupendous.

The village of Steward stands upon the corners of four sections, 16, 17, 20 and 21, and Main and Dewey streets form the dividing lines. The town site was selected by Wesley Steward, on his lands, and he platted the village in 1870. William McMahan, the then county surveyor, made the survey of the plat, and S. O. Barnett, still a resident of Steward, assisted him in the performance of that job, as chainman.

The first house on the new town site was built by Patrick Carey, from the first a section foreman for the Burlington company. This was in 1874; it was built on John street, where it stands today, and was used as Mr. Carey's residence.

The first place of business was erected in 1871, by William Guthrie who used it for a restaurant.

The second business house was built by Henry A. Robinson in 1871, and he used it for a store of general merchandise.

In 1875 P. A. Billion & Co. opened the first hardware store. They sold it to G. A. Ruckman, who conducts it today on the same spot and in the same building.

In 1877, Edward O'Neil erected a building on Main street and opened therein a general store. Doctor Gardner opened the first drug store, but finding a drug store would not pay, he moved the stock upstairs and rented the store room to Yetter and Healy, who put in a stock of general merchandise.

In 1859 the first schoolhouse was built in Alto, and Miss Carrie Whitecomb was the first teacher. Miss Carrie Norton succeeded her. The last named lady married Mr. Merritt Miller, who was a teacher, and afterwards Mr. Miller taught during the winter months and Mrs. Miller during the summer months. In the old schoolhouse, Misses Thurber, Holmes and others, followed. This same old building stands today on Main street and is used for a store building.

In 1881, at a cost of \$7,000, a new school building was built. On Feb. 8, 1903, this building was destroyed by fire and for the rest of the school year school was conducted in the rooms over a Mr. Foster's store. During the summer of 1903, the present beautiful building was erected, and by November 1st the schools were opened with Miss Ida Van Patten as principal, Miss Nona Floyd, teacher of the intermediate department, and Miss Valeria Whetston (Mrs. F. J. Beardsley) as primary teacher. Among those who have taught in the Steward schools are Delos W. Baxter, of Rochelle, and Messrs. Sensor, Fillmore and Miller as principals; Miss Ella Wilcox, now Mrs. Robinson of Iowa, Mrs. Nellie Bowles, Doctor Fauser; Henry H. Hagen, principal; Miss Nora O'Neil, primary, and Miss Dora Aekland, intermediate.

The postoffice was established in Steward in 1871 and Mrs. Merritt Miller became the first postmistress. Through the intrigue of cheap enmity to the founder of the town, the name of the postoffice was made "Heaton," professedly in honor of Judge William W. Heaton of Dixon. But this inconsistency and troublesome feature was short-lived. The department changed it to the name of the plat and the railway station, "Steward," just as it should have been called from the first. The first postoffice was in the old depot, the scene of other interesting beginnings. After about a year, Mrs. Miller gave up the office and H. A. Robinson was appointed. Those who succeeded to the office have been William Preston, G. A. Ruck-

man, and John P. Yetter, the present postmaster, although on Cleveland's second election, Ruckman was returned and then in turn, Yetter was returned. In 1904 two rural deliveries were established from this office, both of which continue to this day. The two first carriers were S. H. Diller and Patrick O'Neal.

In view of the enormous quantities of grain produced at this point, Mr. Steward erected in 1872-73 an elevator to handle it and he engaged in the grain business. A coal and lumber business was connected with the grain business.

In 1880, C. Jorgens & Co. erected another elevator. These people sold out to Miller and Emmitt and they in turn, in the year 1894, sold to Titus Brothers. In 1904 this old elevator was torn down and rebuilt, much enlarged, on a new site furnished by the new Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul company.

On April 13, 1913, the village of Steward was incorporated and officers as follows were elected:

President, U. S. Shearer; trustees, J. M. Durin, J. P. Yetter, John Taylor, F. P. Barnett, L. E. Birdsall and Thomas F. Kirby; clerk, Edward T. Corwin; treasurer, Zeno Wise; police magistrate, S. J. Whetston; marshal, Jay Stiles.

One will find in Steward a peculiar situation in the business field. The grain dealers have always done a banking business and to this day Shearer Brothers receive deposits and write exchange to a very large amount in the course of the year.

The First National Bank was organized Jan. 1, 1903, with a capital stock of \$25,000. Its first officers were: E. L. Titus, president; I. R. Titus, cashier; R. W. Hough, assistant cashier, and E. L. Titus, I. R. Titus, Wesley Steward, G. W. Thompson, J. M. Durin, R. W. Hough, A. B. Titus, George E. Stocking and G. W. Durin, directors.

The Neola Elevator Company operates the old Wesley Steward elevator. Alto township contains one of the best herds of pure bred Hereford cattle in the State of Illinois, owned by W. E. Hemenway. The annual dispersion sales from this farm are events in Lee county history. For many years, Morris Cook, son-in-law of Mr. Hemenway, owned a rare herd of the same breed, but on account of his large landed interests, he dispersed them about four years ago.

Mr. Hemenway's farm is the old Plum Thicket and it has been named "The Grove Farm."

At the International Live Stock show held in Chicago in 1905, "Masquerader" tied with another bull for sweepstakes honors.



which tie had to be decided by casting lots. In this test, Mr. Hemenway lost and so was given second. At other live stock shows this herd has achieved great distinction with "Right Lad" and other noted animals.

Concerning the churches of Alto, their early history is much the same as the history of Malugin's Grove in Brooklyn and Willow Creek. All were in the same circuit and the same circuit riders visited each, although circuit riding had been abandoned practically when Alto began its church history.

The year 1874 seems to mark the beginning of church life in Steward as a distinctive feature. Of course there were other church services in Alto township, but just where I have not been able to ascertain.

In April, 1874, a meeting was held in the railroad depot for the purpose of maturing plans to build a Methodist church in Steward. J. C. Curry, H. A. Robinson, H. VanPatten, V. W. Wells, Jeremiah Tyler, James A. Smith, Merritt Miller, Robert M. Peile and John Yetter were elected a building committee. M. L. Barnett was made treasurer and J. C. Curry was made clerk. Perkins Richardson of Aurora draughted plans and to T. J. Labdell was given the contract for building the new church. By September it was finished and then the question arose as to who should be given control of it. It was voted to the Methodists. On Sept. 6, 1874, the church was dedicated by Prof. Miner Raymond of the Garrett Biblical Institute of Evanston.

Mr. Steward then was superintendent of the railroad and to secure a large attendance he caused free trains to run into Steward from Chicago and Mount Morris. The ladies furnished free dinners. At the meeting Messrs. Steward and Curry agreed to pay the deficit after all the subscriptions had been made by the volunteers.

Before this period Willow Creek furnished about the only church services to be found in that vicinity.

North and south through Alto township the old Ottawa-Rockford trail ran. In 1856 a road was viewed and laid out from Paw Paw to Rochelle.

The lands in Alto average high in price and fertility.

The Plum Thicket run is the only natural stream running through Alto township, and that is so unimportant that it is little known. Water is reached easily. Drive wells reach an easy flow of water at a depth of 100 to 200 feet.



The very large Norwegian Evangelical church in the southeastern corner of the township already has been noticed in the account of Willow Creek. It is known as the North West church and is not far from Lee.

It is so close to Lee that it is regarded as a Lee institution. It was organized June 25, 1870. At the meeting Michael Knutson was made chairman and Rasmus O. Hill, secretary. After prayers, articles of faith were adopted and officers were elected. Peter O. Espe, Peter O. Hill and Elias O. Espe were elected trustees and Michael Knutson, Rasmus O. Hill and Ole O. Hill were made deacons.

Its size is 36x56, 16 feet high, and has a seating capacity for 400. It is surrounded by a large yard and ample shed room for many teams. The cost of construction was \$2,300 and the society is free from debt. While the Fertile Valley church is considered as a Steward church, it is in reality an Inlet swamp church over in Reynolds township and will be considered there.

The very best of citizenship is found in Alto. The church-going element predominates almost to the extent of taking in every family in the township.

Saloons are not permitted in Alto township. It has been dry territory for many years.

The Norwegian settlement extends over into Alto considerably, and into its neighboring town to the east, Milan, in DeKalb county.

Once in the lifetime of Wesley Steward, he owned considerable over two thousand acres of land in this township and his brother, Lewis Steward, owned something like one thousand three hundred acres.

James Kirby, for many years supervisor, and one of the big men of Lee county before his death, owned in his home farm nearly a thousand acres of land, I am told.

Considerable useful information concerning Alto lands will be found in the chapter devoted to the Inlet drainage scheme, one of the biggest in the state.

Lands in Alto township run up to two hundred and fifty and three hundred dollars, and I doubt if the latter figure could buy a single acre of the beautiful Morris Cook farm, just east of town. Mr. Cook is a splendid farmer and when he speaks of threshing a season's crop, it means anything from ten thousand bushels upward. Mr. Cook holds to the theory that one year with another, it pays to market one's grain from the mouth of the machine, and

in his admirable system of keeping track of things, his figures prove the truth of his theory.

The village of Steward is only six miles from Rochelle and very naturally trade at Rochelle, the larger place, would gravitate that way, but Steward has some splendid stocks of general merchandise and the merchants enjoy a splendid trade, running as high as fifty-five thousand dollars in a single year, I have been told, with one of them, Mr. John P. Yetter, the postmaster.

Rev. F. A. Graham, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church here and at Fertile Valley, has two very substantial congregations and his Sunday schools are very prosperous.

#### STEWARD OF TODAY

Steward, located in the midst of the best body of land on this earth almost, naturally reaps many advantages, one of which is that until Scarboro, just below it, was platted, one million bushels of grain and over were marketed every year there. Three large elevators take care of it and in one of them there are three dumps which may be operated at the same moment, so that one man may come to market black oats, another may market white oats and still another with wheat, barley or corn may be served without interference. This grain elevator of Shearer Brothers, on one occasion paid out in one day for grain, \$22,000. I doubt if any place of ten times the size of Steward can make that boast. This is the concern, too, which does a large banking business as well as grain business and, too, they own one of the elevators at Scarboro.

What is true of the grain trade is true of the livestock trade. H. K. Sherlock, one of the buyers, spent \$24,000 for six weeks' receipts. In two other months he paid out \$22,000. Besides him, other dealers buy: Mr. G. W. Durin, Peter Daum, P. C. Wagner and Thomas Kelley.

Another elevator is owned by the Neola company, the Armour's, and the third is called the Farmers, I believe.

The First National Bank is owned largely in the Titus family. It has a capital of \$25,000 and a surplus of over \$5,000.

Besides owning the harness shop, E. T. Corwin runs the garage there and he tells me there are nearly one hundred automobiles tributary to Steward. Something like thirty were sold in the place last season.

The residences of Steward are of the very highest class. Besides that of Mr. Steward, the founder, is one owned by A. A.

Richardson, costing \$12,000. Cement sidewalks are laid before every lot in Steward. This is one of the few places which has an independent electric light all night service, called the Steward Electric Light and Water Company, managed by L. D. Beitel. The town is lighted by fifteen 64-candlepower Tungsten lights, and never since Mr. Beitel has controlled the plant has the town been without light. Steward also has a splendid water service furnished by the electric light company at moderate figures. The pressure can be made seventy-five pounds to the square inch in an instant.

Hon. Wesley Steward, who founded the little place, died not long ago, leaving Mrs. Steward, his widow, and Miss Bertha, his daughter, two charming ladies, surviving him. Miss Steward is a member of the Rochelle chapter, D. A. R. She also is a member of the State Historical Society and is very much interested in historical subjects. Her father, before his death, kept a diary every day of his life after he came to Alto township in 1855, and therein every transaction was recorded just as it occurred, and when it occurred. When he came there he bought up 2,100 acres of land and his brother, Lewis, owned 1,300 acres more. Mr. Steward broke the first furrow on the land on which he lived and on which the village of Steward is situated, and ever since 1855, he lived on that land. During all his long career he was one of the leading citizens of Illinois and in Lee county, no one occupied a greater share of public esteem. Since his death, Mrs. Steward and Miss Steward spend much of their time in travel, especially during the winter months.

The business men of the place may be set down as follows: E. T. Corwin, as stated already; John P. Yetter, general merchant and postmaster, and he runs one of the best equipped stores I ever have seen; William Cratty, blacksmith; William Stauffer, blacksmith; the electric light and power plant; First National bank; Shearer Bros., grain and banking; The Farmer's Elevator, A. Coon, manager; Neola elevator, F. F. Nelson, manager; M. M. Fell, life insurance agent; Dr. G. Kimball; Dr. J. M. Durin; F. P. Barnett, groceries; W. A. Foster, restaurant; Thomas F. Kirby, farm implements; The O'Neil Estate, general merchandise, a very large store; C. O. Raymond, painter; G. A. Ruckman, hardware; Will Daum, plumber; W. W. Holton, barber; City Hotel, and the Telephone Exchange.

Among the most successful farmers are Morris Cook, Ole J. Prestegaard, the very wealthy family of Herrmann, some of whom

live over in Willow Creek, Ira Cooper, Elmer Smith, and the Henning Brothers. Peter Daum is another.

Farm lands of Alto have gone out of sight in price, so that it is impossible for me to quote it.

Just now, two railroads pass through Steward, the old Kinckley road, now the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, and the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul running north and south.







STREET SCENE, AMBOY



OLD DISTILLERY AT ROCKY FORD, ON THE GREEN RIVER, AMBOY

## CHAPTER XVIII

### AMBOY

This claimed for a Frenchman named Filamalee, that he was the first settler of Amboy township and that he lived in Palestine Grove about a mile south of Rocky Ford. It has been said that in a burr oak stump, he placed mortar and therein he pounded grain into meal and flour for bread. He left the country as soon as settlers began reaching the country, and John Dexter in 1835 became the first settler. He came here from Canada and made his claim on the northwest quarter of section 13. The cabin which he built immediately, was twelve feet square. In the spring of 1836, Mr. and Mrs. James Doan came into what now is the township of Amboy. With them came John Doan the father and Jemima sister of James. In the spring of 1837, Andrew Bainter, brother-in-law to James Doan came in and took a claim on the Sublette road. In October, 1837, Asa B. Searls came up the Peoria road with a team of horses, bringing with him Benjamin Wasson, from Peoria. Both were New York people. Searls located on south half of section 14 and Wasson on sections 14 and 15. Later Searls laid out Binghampton, a mile east of the present city of Amboy. Nathan Meek settled near Rocky Ford about 1837. Rocky Ford was so named from the ford over Green river to the southwest of Amboy where Frederick R. Dutcher afterwards established a store, a mill and a distillery and where for a time a village of respectable proportions flourished. Meek was not reputed to be a desirable citizen during the days of the banditti. Three miles down stream he built his corn cracker mill and ground corn. He tried to make flour, but failed. A sawmill had been built in this township much earlier than in other sections of the county. When Mr. Searls first came here Timothy Perkins and Horace Bowen operated one at Rocky Ford, but later in the year, it was transferred to a man named

Lee. After a brief career, Lee sold to Mason. The latter died and John Von Arnam (or Van Norman) secured it. In 1848, Frederick R. Dutcher purchased it.

In 1837, James Blair, and his sons, William, Winthrop and Edwin came here, and settled on section 29. The same year, John S. Sawyer and his four sons erected a cabin south of the Illinois Central shops. In 1841, Sawyer sold part of his claim to Joseph Farwell and the remainder to Joseph Appleton. Alexander Janes came in about 1837, but in a year or so sold his claim to Chester S. Badger, and moved to Bureau county. In 1838, Mr. Badger and his son, Simon, settled in this township, and in 1839 Warren, another son, came out with the mother and her two daughters, Sarah and Rowena (or Roena). But Warren returned and remained in the East until 1842 only, when he came back to Illinois and settled permanently here. Henry Badger came in 1849. In the summer of 1838, John C. Church, Curtis Bridgeman, the latter's sons, Curtis and Uriel, and William Hunt arrived. In 1841, Jacob Doan came out from Ohio and bought the claim made by Mr. Church, one mile south of Amboy. Martin Wright also came in 1838, from Massachusetts. John Fosdick, the Lee Center or Inlet blacksmith moved his smithy over to Doan's place and that became the first in the township. Later Fosdick returned to Lee Center, and Doan and Frederick Bainter became proprietors and continued the business. Doan invented a scouring plow and many were made by the firm.

In 1839, Cyrus Davis and his son, Cyrus A. Davis, came here from Massachusetts and claimed a home on the southeast quarter of section 15, later Wyman's addition to Amboy. John and William Hook, brothers, located at Rocky Ford in 1840. Aaron Hook came two years before. The Joseph Farwell claim on the northeast quarter of section 22 subsequently was platted into the original town of Amboy. Jesse Hale came in 1841, and Samuel and Lyman Bixby came here in 1844. Among others who came to the neighborhood about this time, were, Joseph Appleton (41 or 42); Josiah Davis; Francis H. Northway (1844); Orris Adams and family; David Searls, Alvan H. Thompson; Hiel Lewis (1842); Miles and Joseph Lewis (1845); Seth W. Holmes (1846); Elijah and Warren Hill; Henry C. Shaw, and John M. Blocker (1849).

The first public land sales were held at the Dixon Land Office in the autumn of 1844. Prior to this time of course, every person was a squatter. But as noticed already, every community had its



code under which lines were regulated, settlers were protected in the peaceable enjoyment of their claims and in the right to buy the same from the Government when offered for sale, unhampered by speculators. The Amboy association about 1837, centered around Inlet, of which Amboy was a part at that time. Later, the settlers around Palestine Grove, organized and held meetings at the homes of Sherman Hatch and William Dolan. In 1847, all need for this latter association having vanished it was discontinued. While individual associations existed everywhere, they all were confederated together for any emergencies which may have arisen.

On the 16th of March, 1839, George E. Haskell, was chosen president of the claim association for Inlet and Martin Wright, clerk. The committee elected consisted of Ransom Barnes, D. H. Birdsall, Ozro C. Wright, Daniel M. Dewey and Benjamin Whiteaker. March 20, 1841, Haskell and Wright were reelected, and D. H. Birdsall, David Tripp, Daniel M. Dewey, Charles Starks and Sherman Shaw were made the committee.

In the spring of 1850, April 2d, the first annual town meeting was held in Amboy, Joseph Farwell acted as moderator and Joseph B. Appleton as clerk. Miles Lewis suggested that the new township be named Amboy and the name was adopted. David Searls was made supervisor; J. B. Appleton, town clerk; Martin Wright, assessor and A. H. Thompson, collector.

The old road from Peru to Grand Detour, mentioned already was the first to run through Amboy township. The second ran from Inlet to Prophetstown, taking in Binghamton, and Rocky Ford. Main street today is that very road and the old cottonwoods along the edges to mark its course, were planted by Joseph Farwell.

In 1855, the Illinois Central railroad was finished through Amboy to Freeport, and on February 1, it was thrown open for traffic. The first train to reach Amboy was in November, 1854.

During the session 1868-9 of the Illinois Legislature, Alonzo Kinyon of Amboy was a member of the lower House. During this session, he procured a charter for the Chicago & Rock River Railroad Company to run from Rock Falls to Calumet. In 1869, Kinyon was elected president and on July 26, 1869, Amboy voted by 517 for, to 92 against, to issue township bonds in aid of the road to the extent of \$100,000. January 4, 1872, the road between Rock Falls and Amboy was finished and June 19 it was finished to Paw Paw. Under Kinyon, shops and all manner of good things

for Amboy were promised, but when the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railway Company obtained possession of the road, and connected it with the Chicago & Iowa road at Shabbona, Amboy was doomed. The bonds were fought bitterly for years. All sorts of subterfuges were resorted to in the efforts made to escape service of process; but to no purpose. Their payment had to come sometime. A settlement was made at last, and not very long ago the last dollar was paid off. Many times the burden became intolerable but with a sublime courage the citizens stuck to it until every cent was paid.

Amboy always has been fortunate with her school system. The same intelligence which pervaded Inlet, while Amboy was a part of that precinct, has pervaded Amboy; teachers and ministers and physicians, all men of rare intelligence, came early to Amboy and they saw to it that the Amboy schools were built on substantial foundations and presided over by good teachers.

Lucy Ann Church was the first teacher to teach in this township. The schoolhouse, built of logs, was located on the Sublette road just south of the railroad crossing. Leonard Pratt, John Carey, Ira Hale, David Hale and Charlotte Doan followed Miss Church. The second school in the township was the famous Wasson School, a frame building erected over towards Lee Center, in 1845. In this school Misses Rowena (or Roena) Badger and Roxy Wasson taught for a long while. John Scott, an able teacher, H. E. Badger and Lyman C. Wheat also taught there.

Later, the first school was moved further south and located near the Lewis place.

Private schools never were attempted to any great extent. At Rocky Ford, a few irregular terms were ventured, but in the face of failure, they were not continued.

Church services were furnished first by Father Gorbus, a Methodist, who came over from the Indian Creek country.

The next minister to appear so far as known, was a German Baptist named Father Hetchler. Rev. Curtis Lathrop came along third. He was a Methodist. Father White, a Methodist was next to appear.

In 1843, the Rev. Donaldson, assisted in organizing a Congregational society, said to be the first in the county. This was done at the house of Moses Crombie, and the name adapted was "The Congregational Church of Palestine Grove." Services were held for many years in the Wasson schoolhouse. Rev. John Morrel was the first regular pastor. He in turn was followed by Rev. In-

gersoll, father of Robert G. Ingersoll. Revs. Joseph Gardner and a Mr. Pierson followed Ingersoll. Later this church moved to Lee Center. Many stories are related of Rev. Ingersoll especially by Rev. Haney, the Methodist circuit rider. From all, we can learn the gentleman was rather opinionated and considerably belligerent.

The Palestine Grove Baptist Church was another early church. In 1847, Rev. Charles Cross became its pastor.

The Mormon church attempted to secure a foothold in this township and what is more, it was actually secured. The first preacher, William Anderson, held his services in John Hook's house. Both Joseph and Hyrum Smith came up here often from Nauvoo. Joseph, the prophet, married a Miss Emma Hale, sister to Alva Hale of Sublette, and David Hale and Mrs. Benjamin Wasson of Amboy. Asa Searls was a boyhood acquaintance of Smith, and had been a schoolmate. Smith visited his friends and relatives here often. He made it a point always to preach when here, using the log schoolhouse on the Sublette road. When in the famous litigation of June, 1843, the Governor of Missouri, sent a requisition over into Illinois for Smith's arrest, the latter was visiting those relatives and friends in Palestine Grove. An Illinois constable and the Missouri agent came up here and arrested him. Smith fought desperately, but after receiving many bruises, he was overpowered.

The crowd believed the proceedings were entirely illegal and many followed Smith and his captors to Dixon. It was agreed, however, that Smith was to return to Nauvoo. But upon the discovery of the Missouri agent's design to take the prisoner over to Missouri direct, a party of Mormons collected and rescued the prophet. Immediately he was brought triumphantly into Nauvoo. A writ of habeas corpus was issued and Smith was released by Judge Stephen A. Douglas.

Aaron Hook who had gone to Nauvoo and who had been ordained an elder, returned now, to Rocky Ford. William Smith, another brother of the prophet came over to Lee county from Nauvoo about this time and a very considerable Mormon following was obtained in Lee county.

Among the number were the Hooks, Edwin Cadwell, Wentworth Blair, Stephen Stone and David L. Doan.

It was a deplorable circumstance, however, that none of the Smiths could get along with his neighbors. This William Smith



was no exception. He was arrested here for bigamy, released and then he left the country.

In 1860, April 6th, the anniversary of the founding of the church, the annual conference was held in Amboy. Joseph Smith, Jr., was installed prophet and high priest in the old Mechanics Hall, where the meeting was held.

Amboy township was peopled early by enterprising people. So soon as the settlers got their bearings, they proceeded at once to build their homes and schools and churches and then to establish villages for trading and manufacturing purposes.

Binghamton was laid out by Asa B. Searls and named in honor of Binghamton, New York. Its location was on the southeast quarter of section 14. The date was April, 1848. Warren Badger laid off some lots contiguous. Here Mr. Searls opened and maintained the Binghamton House. He erected a store as well and took into partnership Edward Waters. Later Henry Potter bought the store and he in turn sold it to the Union Company, a cooperative company, conducted by James H. Preston. Robert G. Ingersoll was Mr. Searls' "hired man," for a considerable period.

Binghamton became a flouring mill center, John Dexter in 1844 built one on Green river and the Badger brothers, Warren and Palmer, built another. The latter was killed by a bank of earth falling on him and Chester Badger took his place in the partnership. In 1858, Chester and Henry Badger took over the property and introduced steam power instead of water power. On Thursday night, July 18, 1872, the mill was burned and a loss of \$6,000 was sustained. The mill was rebuilt and H. E. Badger and son took it over and operated it until the evening of July 21, 1881, when it was struck by lightning and burned. Loss \$16,000; insurance \$6,000.

John Doan started a plow factory which he ran for a year and then sold it to Frederick Bainter. In 1846 another was started by the Shaws and Churches. One of the factories, a quaint little limestone building testifies to the business thrift of Binghamton, to this very day.

There were two blacksmith shops, a shoe shop, a wagon shop, the "Reed House," and in 1850 it had secured from Shelburn the stage headquarters and the postoffice. At this time Binghamton was one of the prosperous places of the county.

Binghamton is one mile east of Amboy. There the cemetery was established in the early day and in it, Patience, wife of A. B. Searls, was first to be buried. She died Dec. 19, 1846.



Rocky Ford was settled early and became the center of manufacturing interests without being platted. The old Indian trail from west to east crossed the river here. Timothy Perkins settled here first. He and Horace Bowen erected a sawmill, which passed successively into the hands of Lee, Mason, Van Arnam (or Van Norman) and Dutcher. In 1849, Frederick R. Dutcher platted the property and named the plat, Shelburn. The river was the dividing line. Dutcher erected a distillery at once and in 1853, he added a store. Jacob Doan next year put in another store.

The Shelburn Manufacturing Company of which Dutcher was president, put up a large flouring mill in 1856. It was combined with the distillery and Shelburn attracted considerable trade and a large business was handled.

The mill was a stone building 60x60 feet, four stories high. The distillery was 40x140, two and a half stories high. The dam was built of solid masonry, the whole costing \$65,000. Col. John B. Wyman for a time was an influential member of the company.

In 1859, by reason of an explosion, the south wall was partially thrown down and the boiler was hurled thirty rods across the creek. The engineer, John Bentley was injured badly. Loss \$4,000. Ten years later the building was destroyed by fire. A small section of wall stands today to invite attention to the former glories of Shelburn. Beautiful Rocky Ford cemetery is located here. It is owned by the Catholic church at Amboy.

When the Illinois Central was built, Shelburn and Binghamton collapsed and became deserted villages.

The first postal facilities were furnished by Dixon. Then Asa B. Searls became first postmaster and the office was maintained in his house. Warren Badger followed when Searls resigned. Dutcher was made postmaster of Shelburn, but when Binghamton secured its removal, Dutcher secured its re-establishment under the name of Equator.

Shelburn had all the opportunity to lead. When the mail route was changed from Peoria to Peru, Shelburn became the stage headquarters. Two lines were run, one by Frink and Walker and another by Dixon and Andruss. But the Binghamton people outgeneraled their rivals at every turn and finally secured the stage lines. Midway between Binghamton and Shelburn, stands Amboy, made by the entrance of the Illinois Central railroad.

In 1851, a corps of engineers under Roswell B. Mason, ran lines through this locality. T. B. Blackstone, had charge of the men between Dixon and Bloomington. The town sites then were owned

in many instances, by individuals or companies, composed of stockholders of the Central. Very much after present day methods they pursued the tactics of the present day man. At first a farm two miles north of the present depot, was bought and the company sent out word that the machine shops for the new road were to be located there. Some stone was hauled and the place actually was named Kepatau. This feint was made for the sole purpose of securing another farm for the town. The scheme worked very well and Amboy stands today just where the Central people desired, on the "Farwell place."

In June, 1853, Michael Egan came here to begin work on the station buildings. Plans for the machine shops were made and Mr. Egan pushed their construction with rapidity. Eighteen hundred and fifty-four became the birth year of Amboy. Town lots were sold rapidly. Farwell's and Wyman's and Gilson's additions were platted and residence lots went off rapidly. R. D. Peironet and Samuel Goldman opened the first stores; the first named had a small stock of knick-knacks. Goldman sold clothing.

In the spring of 1854, Josiah Little erected a store building which was opened in October and in which a stock of drugs, hardware and groceries was sold; Wilcox and Wooster followed with a dry goods and grocery store. Later, Mr. Wooster bought the interest of his partner. During these first formative years, Amboy grew very rapidly.

David Bainter was the first doctor to settle here. William E. Ives, the first lawyer to settle here, came in December, 1854. Alfred Tooker and James H. Filch came the next year. Alonzo Kinyon, who read law here came about the same time. Desirous of securing the facilities of a court, Kinyon secured the passage of an act by the Legislature establishing, "The Court of Common Pleas of the City of Amboy," with jurisdiction concurrent with the circuit court, cases of murder and treason excepted. In 1869, Kinyon was elected judge of this court and C. D. Vaughan was elected clerk. The court did not prosper, however, and in 1874 the law was repealed.

Armed with a letter of introduction to Stephen A. Douglas, Bernard H. Trusdell came to Amboy in 1858, to practice law. Douglas had advised Amboy. Edward Southwick moved here from Dixon, but died about the time Mr. Trusdell came here. Norman H. Ryan came a little later. Both Trusdell and Ryan became lawyers of renown.

Incorporation as a town followed soon. In the winter of 1854-5, the town was incorporated. Allen E. Wilcox became the first president of the board of trustees. H. B. Judkins became the second clerk.

On Dec. 23, 1856, a citizen's meeting was held in Mechanics hall to consider the question of city organization. J. B. Wyman, William E. Ives, Alonzo Kinyon and Edward Southwick, were appointed a committee to draft a charter. On the 30th at an adjourned meeting held at the Orient House, the charter was reported, adopted section by section and then as a whole. On Feb. 16, 1857, an act was approved and March 2 was set for the election to adopt or ratify it. On the 8th following, John B. Wyman was elected mayor, Orange D. Reed, marshal; S. S. Stedman, E. S. Reynolds, J. R. Stevens, F. B. Little, J. M. Davis and J. A. Jackson were elected aldermen. Two hundred and thirty-four votes were cast. Daniel T. Wood was made clerk; W. E. Ives, attorney; A. E. Wilcox, assessor; W. B. Andruss, collector; Edward Little, treasurer and Arthur Pond, surveyor.

In 1854-5, the postoffices at Shelburn and Binghamton were discontinued and Amboy secured the same. Orange D. Reed was made first postmaster.

The first birth in the new village was that of Medora Bell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bell, Aug. 29, 1854. The first birth in the township was that of Simon, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Dexter in 1836; the second was that of William C. Doan, son of James Doan, Oct. 16, 1837. The first marriage in the village of Amboy was that of William C. Bartlett, and Caroline Bartlett, Oct. 18, 1854. The first death in the village was that of Almira Melissa, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Stuart, Jan. 5, 1855.

Two tragedies occurred in Amboy. Owen O'Connor shot and killed Dennis Allen, saloon keeper, Oct. 11, 1872. On April 18, 1873, John McGrath stabbed and killed Edward Egan. A negro killed another negro in the passenger station by striking with his fist.

Amboy has made several fights to secure the county seat and always she has been vigilant to see that Dixon obtained no advantages. For that reason, until the erection of the present courthouse, Dixon always had been compelled to build and maintain the courthouse. In 1866, the first effort was made. With Dr. George Ryon in the Legislature it was conceded that her chances were better than an average. But the effort failed. When it be-



came known that the present new courthouse was probable for Lee county, Amboy made another desperate effort to secure the county seat; but this defeat was more decided than the first. The removal of the division offices and the shops from Amboy, had cut her population, while the territory naturally tributary to Dixon, as well as Dixon herself had been enjoying a long period of prosperity and increase in population.

Amboy has been subjected to fearful fires. The first big fire on the morning of Dec. 10, 1863, originated under the brick city hall, three stories high. A \$35,000 loss followed; insurance, \$14,000.

In 1864 a \$45,000 fire followed; insurance, \$38,000. March 10, 1865, another big fire followed. Other fires occurred April 2, 1868; April 25, 1871, and Aug. 25, 1871, the last one entailing a loss of \$175,000; insurance, \$103,000. In this last fire John Shannon was burned to death. He had been incarcerated in the city jail and was forgotten until too late. Other fires of smaller degree have followed since, but none of any magnitude.

After the railroad debt had been saddled upon the community, the struggles of Amboy were hopeless, many times. No money could be secured for improvements. The railroad shops were taken away. The division offices were removed; yet she struggled forward bravely, and beginning with the administration of Mayor John P. Harvey, splendidly paved streets made their appearance. Boulevard lamps followed. Now Amboy is pushing forward splendidly. I do insist, however, that the splendid grasp which Mayor Harvey had of the situation and his uncompromising efforts for order, beauty and business development, have been responsible very largely for the new Amboy of today.

The Lewis families in Lee county are descendants of George Lewis, who, with his brother John, came from East Greenwich, County of Kent, England, about 1630, to Plymouth, Mass.

George married Sarah Jenkins in England. She was sister of Edward Jenkins, one of the earliest settlers of Scituate, and ancestor of most of that name in New England. George Lewis was a clothier by occupation and in religious matters was a Separatist, or one of the Pilgrims, as distinguished from the Puritans of the Massachusetts Bay Colony. He went from Plymouth to Scituate, and thence to Barnstable, being one of the early settlers of that town.

Nathaniel Lewis, Jr., as he is known in the family genealogy, was a direct descendant of George Lewis, and was born in Ver-



mont May 27, 1769, and, with his wife (Esther Tuttle), came to Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, about the year 1785. Six sons and six daughters were born to them in Susquehanna county, and their names, date of birth, date and place of death are as follows:

Esther, born June 2, 1793; married Joshua McKune; died at Osceola, Wisconsin, Sept. 19, 1878.

Levi, born Nov. 9, 1796; died Sept. 28, 1857, at Amboy, Illinois.

Lurena, born Dec. 22, 1798; married Augustus Trowbridge; died Dec. 7, 1867, at Lee Center, Illinois.

Nathaniel C., born May 3, 1803; died Nov. 27, 1864, at Genoa, DeKalb county, Illinois.

Sarah, born May 1, 1805; married Sabin Trowbridge; died Dec. 8, 1861, at Lee Center, Illinois.

Joseph, born April 15, 1807; died May 5, 1882, at Amboy, Illinois.

Timothy P., born March 28, 1809; died Jan. 7, 1872, at Amboy, Illinois.

Elizabeth, born Nov. 13, 1811; married Hezekiah McKune; died Feb. 7, 1899, at Lee Center, Illinois.

Ann, born Feb. 4, 1814; married Austin B. Trowbridge; died Feb. 11, 1880, at Lee Center, Illinois.

Hiel, born Dec. 31, 1816; died April 28, 1880, in Amboy township, Lee county, Illinois.

Miles, born May 11, 1818; died Aug. 27, 1877, at Lee Center, Illinois.

Olive, born June 17, 1823; married Alpheus G. Skinner; died Oct. 1, 1892, at China township, Lee county, Illinois.

These twelve children of Nathaniel Lewis, Jr., were all born in Susquehanna county, Pennsylvania, and all, with their families, came to Illinois between the years 1842 and 1845; and at one time, were all in Lee county, Illinois.

## AMBOY OF TODAY

By P. M. James

The city of Amboy has had its vicissitudes and days of darkness and gloom; but, phoenix-like, it is arising from the ashes of the dead past and with confidence and assurance is now looking straight into the future.

The removal of the Illinois Central railroad shops and the heavy bonded indebtedness of the township, voted for the construe-

tion of the Rock River railroad,—the two ghastly spectres which for many years hung like a funeral pall over our people,—are now matters of ancient history.

The Illinois Central has in a measure returned to Amboy,—its monthly pay roll at the present time at this place amounting on the average to \$15,900 with bright prospects for an increase in both pay roll and business and with a strong probability that this company will again make this place a regular terminal station. At the present time, the company makes Amboy its freight terminal, and it is here well provided with side tracks and roundhouse. The business transacted by this company at this place is summarized by its gentlemanly agent, A. A. Carmichael, as follows:

Employees at station, 16; at roundhouse, 25; on section, 15; and on trains and engines, 140; making a total of 196 and an average of over thirty thousand freight cars are handled through the Amboy yard each month.

The Rock River railroad bonds have long since been paid (\$100,000), and long years of interest, and from this time on the road constructed, now a branch of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad, will be a good investment and a source of income to the entire town, at least in the payment of taxes, which for the year 1912 amounted for the township to the sum of \$2,692.46.

Amboy is also the western terminal of the Northern Illinois Electric Railway Company which has its road under construction from Amboy to DeKalb, and of which twelve miles, reaching through Lee Center and Bradford to near the Reynolds township line, are completed and in operation. These three railways give Amboy excellent shipping facilities, but the one thing that has during the past few years tended to build up Amboy and its business interest has been the development of the agricultural resources in this vicinity. By a thorough system of drainage by means of tile and open ditches, it has discovered that the farm lands in the vicinity of Amboy may and have become very productive,—and as a result our business men now look and depend on the farmer more than any other one class of people. As these farms continue to improve in value and productiveness it is but natural to believe that Amboy will be benefited thereby.

#### CITY GOVERNMENT

The city of Amboy was originally incorporated under a special charter Feb. 16, 1857, which was amended Feb. 24, 1869, but on



LEE COUNTY FAIR, 1912. AMBOY





May 8, 1888, was reorganized under the city and village laws of the state. The more marked improvements during the past few years have been the installation of a city water system, with the water supplied of an excellent quality from an artesian well over two thousand feet in depth, under Mayor George E. Young; the removal of the old wooden awnings in the business section, the construction of cement sidewalks and the installation of a general sewer system under Mayor J. P. Johnson; the paving of the streets in the business section, and the extension of water mains, sewers and cement walks under Mayor John P. Harvey; and the installation of the boulevard lighting system in the business section, and the improving and rebuilding of the electric lighting system of the entire city, under the present mayor, Fred N. Vaughan. The present officers of the city government are as follows:

F. N. Vaughan, mayor; Messrs. W. J. Keho, C. A. Fenstermaker, H. W. O'Toole, W. J. Edwards, T. B. Fisher, James Briggs, Frank Brady, E. H. Barlow and A. J. Barlow, aldermen; J. W. Kelleher, city marshal; F. A. Flach, city clerk; Paul F. Reilly, city treasurer; William L. Leech, city attorney; John M. Egan, Jr., city engineer; F. C. Vaughan, fire marshal; Dr. E. A. Sullivan, health officer; V. B. Andruss, water commissioner; H. H. Badger, J. C. MacKinnon and W. J. Edwards, park commissioners.

#### AESTHETICS

The civic pride of the citizens is shown by the well painted homes, the well kept lawns and the care and attention given street trees, shrubs and ornamental plants, by reason of which Amboy always presents a neat and tidy appearance. The city owns Green River Park, a tract of about forty acres lying adjacent to the city on the east and which is well shaded with native oak trees. This park is situated on the banks of Green river, is well cared for by the city and is well patronized, not only by the people of the city, but also by many people from a distance.

Adjacent to this park on the south and west are located the grounds and improvements of the Lee County Fair Association with a half-mile track which is a joy to the horsemen. During the fair the association is granted the use of the park, and taken together they make an ideal place for the annual gathering of the people of the entire county.

## HOSPITAL

Amboy Hospital, owned by the Amboy Hospital Company, Incorporated, is located at the corner of Plant and Division streets and is well equipped and has competent nurses for the treatment and care of the sick and for surgical operations, and is being much appreciated and well patronized by our citizens. While it is owned and controlled as a private corporation, yet its doors are always open for any legitimate business and all reputable physicians and surgeons.

## SCHOOLS

There are three school buildings in Amboy,—a pebble dash two-room building located on East Main street, a two-story brick building on West Provost street, and a two-story pressed brick high school building located near the center of the city. Grades 1 to 4, inclusive, are taught in the two first mentioned buildings, and grades 5 to 12 inclusive, are taught in the high school building.

The high school has a regular four-year course and includes household science, manual training and agriculture. As to the character and standard of the work done in the high school it is sufficient to mention the fact that this school has been on the fully accredited list of the University of Illinois for many years, and at the present time its graduates may obtain seventeen credits or two more than are required for admission to the university.

The board of education consists of Frank P. Blocher, president; P. M. James, secretary; and Messrs. Fred N. Vaughan, J. M. Egan, Jr., G. A. Deming, C. H. Wooster and Charles A. Zeigler. The teachers for 1913-14 are: Otis M. Eastman, superintendent and principal of the high school; Misses Myrtle Kenney, Ruth F. Keefer and Launa B. Robinson in the high school; and in the grades, Misses Edna Washburn, Josie F. Keho, Jennie Carroll, Margaret Hammond, Catherine Clark, Leota Dee Brown and Lena Elois Scranton. Mr. Eastman and Miss Keefer are from the University of Illinois; Miss Robinson from Wesleyan University of Bloomington, Illinois; and Miss Kenney a post graduate of Southern Illinois Normal University; of the grade teachers, three are Normal School graduates, and all have had normal school training.

## CHURCHES

To accommodate the various religious beliefs of her citizens Amboy is well supplied with church organizations, as follows:

St. Patrick's Catholic Church, with a large brick edifice located on Jones street, and with Rev. T. J. Cullen, priest, in charge; German Lutheran, located on Jones street; Baptist on Mason street, Rev. Earl A. Riney, pastor; Methodist Episcopal with a stone edifice on Mason street, Rev. J. W. George, pastor; St. Luke's Episcopal, on Mason street; Congregational, located at corner of Main and Plant streets, with Rev. H. H. Appelman, pastor; and the Christian Science occupy rooms in the Badger Block.

## NEWSPAPERS

For many years Amboy has had two newspapers, known as the Amboy News and the Amboy Journal, but in October, 1913, the News-Journal Company was incorporated and took over and consolidated both plants and will continue publishing the Amboy News.

The names of the directors and officers of the News-Journal Company are as follows:

G. L. Carpenter, president; Philip Clark, vice president; Andrew Aschenbrenner, H. H. Badger, George P. Miller; and Mary J. Burnham, secretary-treasurer.

## BANKS

The First National Bank of Amboy, as shown by its statement of Oct. 21, 1913, had a capital of \$100,000.00, a surplus and undivided profits amounting to \$107,690.16, and total assets of \$1,155,724.17. The officers of the bank are, Fred N. Vaughan, president; Elijah L. King, vice president; H. H. Badger, cashier, and L. L. Brink and W. B. Vaughan, assistant cashiers. The directors are F. N. Vaughan, E. L. King, E. L. Price, H. W. Hillison, W. V. Jones, W. A. Green, P. M. James, Philip Clark and H. H. Badger.

The Amboy State Bank, was established in December, 1912, with a capital of \$25,000.00; on Oct. 22, 1913, it reported assets to the amount of \$84,624.14. The officers and directors of the bank are: George P. Miller, president; F. W. Harek, vice president; R. W. Ruckman, cashier; and Messrs. F. C. Haley, Jarvis Leake,

George Malach, J. A. Jones, A. D. Fristoe, R. W. Jamison and John Daehler.

#### INDUSTRIALISM

The crying need in Amboy is the establishment of industries that will furnish work for our young people so that they will not be compelled to go elsewhere to find employment.

The John P. Harvey Bridge and Iron Works occupies commodious quarters with high grade machinery, and is engaged in concrete and structural steel work. Mr. Harvey employs ten men, and his pay roll for labor for 1913 amounts to \$6,500.00 per year and material \$10,500.00.

The Sanitary Creamery Company purchases milk and cream and sells milk, cream and butter. It has twelve employees in its service, and last year paid out \$71,296.85 for milk and cream and \$7,118.00 for labor. The officers of the company are P. M. James, president; H. H. Badger, vice president, and J. C. MacKinnon, secretary-treasurer and general manager.

The Entorf Filter Company, Amboy, Ill., was incorporated on April 17, 1913, with a capital stock of \$15,000.00. The company is engaged in the manufacture of the Entorf water separating filter for gasoline, kerosene and similar oils. The officers are Charles A. Entorf, president, and Carl P. Baird, secretary-treasurer.

#### MASONIC

Illinois Central Lodge, No. 178, A. F. and A. M., with 112 members: W. B. Vaughan, W. M.; B. B. Lewis, S. W.; J. C. MacKinnon, J. W.; V. B. Andruss, secretary; L. L. Brink, treasurer; W. L. Berryman, S. D.; Andrew Myers, J. D.; W. F. Graves, S. S.; Edward Morris, J. S.; W. F. Entorf, organist; T. B. Fisher, chaplain; W. P. Long, tyler.

Amboy Chapter 194, R. A. M., with 104 members: W. J. Edwards, E. H. P.; John C. MacKinnon, K.; W. B. Dewey, S.; John Reeves, secretary; W. P. Long, treasurer; J. H. Ayres, C. H.; J. P. Johnson, P. S.; A. A. Carmichael, R. A. C.; C. F. Dewey, M. 3 V.; F. C. Hegert, M. 2 V.; J. P. Brierton, M. 1st W.; R. L. Virgil, sentinel; V. B. Andruss, chaplain; B. B. Lyons, steward.

#### AMBOY ORDER EASTERN STAR WITH 131 MEMBERS

Mrs. J. P. Honeycutt, W. M.; Mr. J. P. Honeycutt, W. P.; Mrs. Mary Davis, A. M.; Mrs. Maude Brierton, secretary; Mr.



John Reeves, treasurer; Mrs. Clara Carmichael, conductress; Mrs. Vera Peoples, A. C.; Miss Mae Searls, Ada; Mrs. Grace Brink, Ruth; Mrs. Helen Vaughan, Esther; Mrs. Ella Walters, Martha; Miss Mary Wood, Electa; Mrs. Fannie Doty, Warder; V. B. Andruss, sentinel; Mrs. W. B. Dewey, marshal; Mrs. Sarah Brier-ton, chaplain; Stella M. Klein, organist.

#### M. W. OF A.

Amboy Camp No. 158, W. M. of A. Membership 120. E. H. Barlow, counsel; G. M. Finch, advisor; W. P. Long, banker; W. B. Vaughan, clerk; E. J. Conderman, escort; Charles Kastler, watchman; Dr. C. A. Zeigler, physician; W. F. Graves, C. W. Maine and Ai. Tuttle, managers, and R. L. Bissell, sentry.

#### K. OF C.

Keenan Council No. 740, Knights of Columbus, was instituted June 21, 1913, with forty-five charter members, which has since increased to 147. The present officers are:

Grand knight, William E. Clark; deputy grand knight, John P. Canavan; chancellor, Charles W. Rabbitt; financial secretary, John F. Hammond; advocate, D. M. Reilley; treasurer, Paul F. Reilley; chaplain, Rev. T. J. Cullen; lecturer, Rev. F. S. Porcella; inside guard, John J. Edwards; outside guard, Lyman T. Callahan; trustees, Philip Clark, J. P. Harvey and F. W. Meyer.

#### AMBOY COMMERCIAL CLUB

Amboy Commercial Club has eighty members and the officers and directors are as follows:

W. T. Berryman, president; H. H. Badger, vice president; E. L. Doty, treasurer; B. B. Brewer, secretary; G. L. Carpenter, W. E. Clark, D. L. Berry, directors.

This club was incorporated in 1911; has commodious rooms in the Entorf building and is doing much for the commercial interests of the city.

#### I. O. O. F.

Green River Lodge No. 999, I. O. O. F. was instituted April 26, 1911, at Amboy. It has seventy members at present time.

Officers are: T. O. Clink, N. G.; Oscar Wilhelm, V. G.; A. A. Virgil, secretary; J. F. Hook, treasurer; R. S. Brown, warden; George I. Welch, conductor; E. S. Coates, chaplain; J. S. Conkrite, inside guard; superintendents of N. G., J. A. Church and L. A. Emery; superintendents to V. G., E. H. Barlow and E. F. Barnes; W. L. Eddy, P. G.; R. L. Bissell, representative; J. A. Church, Dept.





REYNOLDS EVANGELICAL CHURCH, NEAR ASHTON



MAIN STREET, WEST, ASHTON



## CHAPTER XIX

### ASHTON TOWNSHIP

And here is another resource of old Inlet! Until 1861 it was included in Bradford township. In 1861, it was set off by itself. It contains but one-half a government township.

Ashton was not settled early for the reason that, knowing the land was exceedingly rich and fertile, speculators later bought up nearly the whole township. Not a single settler is known to have settled here in the thirties and even not until the late forties when in 1848, Erastus Anderson settled here. A few weeks later his brother Timothy followed. In December their father followed.

In 1849 a man named Hubbard settled in the western part of the township, and in 1852 Daniel Suter located in the town and so did H. Sanders.

Another reason for the absence of settlers was the lack of timber. Old settlers demanded fuel. They feared the prairies over which the winds whistled. Then too, there was no great road or trail through that section and naturally settlers would not seek the country so long as claims nearer the trail were to be had.

The entrance of the Galena and Chicago Union railroad in 1854, gave this region its first impetus.

The first church erected in Ashton was the Methodist, in 1863. It was a temporary building to hold down the donation of a lot until a better could be built. The second church was a Free Methodist Church built in 1864 and it is claimed for itself to be the first of that denomination to be built in the state. Among the first members were Jonathan Dake, Sidney and Melville Beach, Sylvester Forbes, Charles Butolpk, Isaac Martin, Samuel Walker, James Reed, William Martin; Rev. J. G. Terrol was the first pastor.

The third church was built in 1866 by the Catholic people with a membership of fifty. The Christian Church was built in 1868.

Among its first members were F. Nettleton, J. P. Taylor and Peter Plantz. At first the meetings were held in a schoolhouse.

The German Baptist church was built just outside of the village to the south in 1866.

In 1877 the Presbyterians erected their church. Their first minister was Rev. S. Vale. Among the earliest members were Samuel F. Mills, Nathan A. Petrie and Messrs. Pollock, Griffith, Huston and Brewer.

Ashton is a wonderful little city. Beginning with 1863 it has been visited several times with very destructive fires. The grain elevator, loss \$2,000 and the flouring mills, loss \$60,000, were burned. In 1871, the railroad property, which consisted of two tanks, the depot and a coal house with 1,200 tons of coal were consumed. A lumberyard and four dwelling houses went too. The coal house was the origin. Loss \$75,000. In 1874 the hay press and an elevator were burned; loss \$30,000.

Several tragedies have been enacted in Ashton, of the most atrocious character. A preacher named Samuel P. McGhee, a married man, in 1877 became infatuated with another woman. By the use of strychnine, administered in small quantities he put his wife out of the way. When first taken ill, the doctor was called. He attended her constantly, but the trouble was not discovered until later. The last dose was administered by the husband just before he left for church to preach and hold his usual Sunday services. He was arrested at once and placed in jail. At first he tried to fasten the blame on his fourteen-year-old daughter, and he succeeded in having her sign an acknowledgment to that effect. But the jury did not believe him. He was seen to throw the package containing the last dose on an awning. It was recovered and used in evidence.

In this trial which lasted about a week before Judge Heaton and a jury, Judge John V. Eustace defended the prisoner. As already stated it was one of the noted trials in the state, and Judge Eustace presented a masterful defence. If he had not, the verdict of guilty and fourteen years, would have been for life or hanging.

McGhee was a sleek fellow; his long silky beard almost black, was regarded with the same affection that the peacock has for his brilliant tail. During all the long trial, he stroked it continually. The other tragedy was enacted but recently Aug. 18, 1912. It was a frightful one.

Warren Sanders had married Westanna Griffith, a young girl, almost young enough to be classed a child. She was handsome.

In time a child was born, little Naomi. Later the couple parted. Sanders lacked the knack of getting along in the world. At first the father-in-law permitted him to occupy the old home farm.

He did not succeed there and experimented with other pursuits in town. At last Mrs. Sanders, left him and with the child, went to live with her parents. Reconcilements were effected, but for no lasting time. About a year before the tragedy occurred, Mrs. Sanders went to Chicago to seek employment. Sanders followed and for a short while they lived together. Another separation followed. Mrs. Sanders procured a divorce. Later the decree was reopened and there the matter stood, when learning from the daughter at Ashton, that his wife was to return to Ashton that night for a visit, Sanders waited till the train arrived that night, about 1 o'clock, and when his wife alighted, he deliberately shot her two times and she dropped dead on the station platform. Then turning to his mother-in-law, Mrs. Melva Griffith, who had brought the little daughter, Naomi, down to the train, he shot the mother-in-law twice, and then surrendered himself. He pleaded guilty to the indictment for murder and Judge Farrand sentenced him to life imprisonment. Mr. Harry Edwards made a remarkably able prosecution, and Mr. John E. Erwin made a brilliant defense. Ashton is one of the richest communities in this part of the state. Way back in the sixties, Mills & Petrie sold \$109,000 worth of general merchandise in one year in Ashton and today in the little village the Ashton bank presents a statement of three-quarters of a million dollars, almost. Two of the very oldest, almost the very first business men of Ashton live there today. They are Samuel F. Mills and Nathan A. Petrie.

In 1854 Mr. Mills came here and engaged in the grain and lumber trade. In 1858 Mr. Petrie, his cousin, joined him and ever since the lives of those two gentlemen have been wrapped up as one. For years it was their custom to dress alike; to wear moustaches alike. They were married on the same evening, and for most of their married lives, they lived together. Now Mr. Mills is eighty-three years old and the devotion of Mr. Petrie, twelve years his junior, is even more beautiful than Jonathan's devotion to David.

About two years ago Mrs. Mills died. Mr. Mills and she had returned to the old family home in Parrish, New York, where, retired, the comforts of the old home and the glamour of childhood scenes might be enjoyed. On the death of Mrs. Mills, the husband

returned to Ashton, where, though somewhat infirm, he enjoys the atmosphere of his early successes.

In 1861, these gentlemen gave up the grain business for general merchandizing. In this they made fortunes. In 1867 they entered the banking business. A few years ago they incorporated as The Ashton Bank.

Sidney Beach came out to Ogle county in 1838, later he moved across the line to Ashton; James King came to Bradford in 1854, later he moved into Ashton; Peter Plantz moved from Ogle county into Ashton in 1856; Melville Beach, 1852; Riley Paddock settled in Ogle county in 1837, later he moved to Ashton; Erastus Anderson settled in Ogle county in 1846; in 1848 he moved to Ashton township; Henry Saunders, Jr., came here from Ogle county. Thus it will be seen that most of the first settlers moved from Ogle county, immediately north, and Bradford, immediately south.

What Kalamazoo is to the celery market, Ashton promises to be to the asparagus market.

About twelve years ago, Mr. Benton Drummond planted seven acres to asparagus. The next year he planted five acres, making a total of twelve acres.

In three years time after planting, the grass began to yield a crop for market. By careful tillage and very heavy enrichments each year, the field now yields annually three thousand cases of choice grass. During the season Mr. Drummond hires seven people to cut and pack this grass. At first he shipped to Chicago, but the quality of his product spread so rapidly that very soon he was deluged with offers in other places, and latterly, all of his shipments have been made to Milwaukee.

Mr. Drummond's grass is labeled "The Drummond Grass," and is known and prized in every asparagus market.

In every crate there are twenty-four boxes. Every afternoon the grass is shipped on the four o'clock east bound train and arrives that evening in Milwaukee.

Since Mr. Drummond's success has become so pronounced, eight others have planted fields, so that now, Ashton furnishes about nine-tenths of the asparagus which goes into the Chicago market.

### ASHTON OF TODAY

Sitting snugly in the midst of land, a piece of which sold recently for \$300 per acre, Ashton should not be blamed if she were



vain. But she's not. A more hospitable people cannot be found in the county than in Ashton.

The people are a church going, industrious and well to do people. There are no saloons here and there have been none for a long time. There are about one thousand people here at present I am told. Ashton is the home of several fraternal orders. Ashton Lodge, 977, I. O. O. F., is a very prosperous body. Frank Hart is noble grand; Arthur Dugdale is vice grand; E. J. Yenerick is secretary and Faust Boyd is treasurer. Rebekah Lodge, 497, has a large membership. Its officers are as follows: Mrs. Lura Dugdale, noble grand; Mrs. Mary Gilbert, vice grand; Mrs. Myrtle Zeller, past grand; Mrs. Ida Bassler, secretary; Mrs. Olga Howey, treasurer; Miss Clara Bode, warden; Miss Lena Bode, conductor; Mrs. Alice Hamm, chaplain; Mrs. Dora Putman, R. S. N. G.; Miss Hattie Brown, L. S. N. G.; Mrs. Ora Beach, R. S. V. G.; Miss Gertrude Fell, L. S. V. G.; Miss Lucy Hart, inside guard; Mr. John Vaupel, outside guard.

Following is the roster of the officers of the R. N. A., Myrtle Dade Camp 6061: Mrs. Earl Howey, oracle; Mrs. George Van Ness, vice oracle; Mrs. George Putman, past oracle; Mrs. Adam Eisenberg, chancellor; Miss Minnie Aschenbrenner, recorder; Miss Ida Eisenberg, receiver; George Putman, manager; Mrs. Roland Eisenberg, marshall; Mrs. John Weishaar, inside sentinel; Mrs. Conrad Smith, outside sentinel.

The Masonic body is very strong. Following are the officers of Ashton Lodge, 531, A. F. & A. M.: John Drummond, worshipful master; Carl Schade, senior warden; Ralph S. Charters, junior warden; George R. Charters, treasurer; Roy W. Jeter, secretary; Charles Hunter, senior deacon; Jacob B. Farver, junior deacon; Fred C. Mall, senior steward; Paul W. Charters, junior steward; Laban T. Moore, marshall; Fred A. Richardson, chaplain; John D. Charters, organist; Charles Tuck, tyler.

O. E. S.: Mrs. Lewis Sindlinger, W. M.; M. N. Glenn, W. P.; Mrs. Ed Chadwick, Associate M.; Mrs. Doll Orner, secretary; Mrs. Joseph Wetzel, treasurer.

M. W. A., Camp No. 48: George Putman is V. C.; R. J. Dean, clerk; Jo Mall, banker.

Mystic Workers: W. F. Klingebiel, prefect; Miss Lena M. Howard, secretary; John Oesterheld, banker.

The Ashton churches are all handsome structures. Of the Methodist Episcopal church, Rev. A. E. Ullrich is pastor. The Sunday school of this church is a marvel. Ralph J. Dean is the

very able superintendent. The Men's class of Mr. A. W. Rosecrans has a membership of 85 men and the average attendance is 50. In the school there are 201 members.

Of the Presbyterian church, Rev. McWherter is the pastor. He presides over the Franklin Grove church, too, I understand. Rev. Mack is the pastor of the Lutheran church. All of these buildings are frame. The United Evangelical, German, is a brick structure and Rev. George Walter is the pastor. Of the Catholic church, the pastor at Rochelle ministers to its members. Thus it will be seen why Ashton enjoys so much comfort and why so many good things abound there. The schools too are of the highest order.

The new school building which cost \$35,000 is the best equipped school building in the county by all odds. It is positively fire proof. It was occupied Dec. 8, last. The present enrollment is 185. There are eight grades and a four-year high school course. Diplomas from this school are recognized by the colleges and universities which of itself speaks volumes for the high character of the Ashton schools. There are three teachers in the high school courses, Prof. J. Nofsinger, superintendent; Miss Eva Neleh, principal and Miss Alice Eddy, assistant principal. In the four lower rooms where eight grades are taught, the teachers are John Absher, Miss Minnie Schade, Mrs. Pearl Billmire and Miss Lena Bode.

The members of the school board are S. T. Zeller, president; Dr. H. A. Bremmer, clerk, and E. C. Shippee.

While dwelling on the schools I may as well give the following historical sketch written in 1909:

"More than a half a century has passed since the educational interests of the village of Ashton began. The early inhabitants of the village were largely of Irish descent. To the north it was entirely American while to the south there were some English people and a small settlement of French. The thrifty German population is of more recent years. No very learned or cultured classes seem to have gilded the fair name of Ashton in an early day. Most emphatically the people of today are descendants of the common people, the tillers of the soil, of which we have no regrets to express.

"As early as 1859 a school election was held in the village of Ogle and elected James Brecumer, Daniel Suter and George Glenn as directors. The records have it that the first school in the place where Ashton now stands was taught by J. A. Andrus who acted

in this capacity for several terms. The first assistant was David A. Glenn. Among the early assistants were Maria Bradstreet, Miss Kate Buck, who taught for the stated sum of \$10 per month, and Miss Margaret Cartwright who was engaged for \$12.50 per month and furnish her own board. Miles Temyck and George Brewer were also among the early teachers of the school. The above teachers taught in an old stone schoolhouse with a frame wing located on the south side of the present school lot.

"In 1860 the board of trustees were C. J. Wilson, J. B. Williams and D. G. Shottenkirk.

"The first school treasurer was Aaron Weeks.

"Owing to the needs and increasing demand for better school advantages there was considerable discussion as to the possibility of a new school building. The agitation grew and found hearty cooperation among the more progressive people of the village. These affairs took definite shape when an election was held which resulted in the decision for a new building. There was considerable contention over a location for the new building. Two sites were under consideration by the people. One side favored the site where the present school building is and the other the more elevated location where the Catholic church now stands. After a considerable excitement over the contending locations the old one was chosen and was made larger by the district purchasing the lot to the north which made the present school grounds. The trustees at the time of the new building were Henry Glenn, Henry Bly and Aaron Weeks. W. H. Emerson was clerk when the school site was chosen.

"The material for the building was obtained in the quarry on the north edge of the village. James Quick superintended the work and a Chicago architect designed the style of the building. Among those that worked upon the building were Isaac Earl, Wilburn Earl, and J. S. Thompson; the latter making the pattern work for the stone. There is no accurate record as to the actual cost of the building, but upon inquiry we find that a bond of \$19,000 was given by the district and other additional expenses brought the cost up to \$23,000. The building was completed in the fall of 1869 and school was begun in the new building the first Monday after New Years, 1870, with H. M. Halleek as principal.

"No town in this part of the state could boast of better school advantages at this time than Ashton. The building was a monument to the district and was considered superior to any in this section of the country. Foreign scholars from a radius of many

miles were enrolled as members of the Ashton High School, there being so many that it was necessary to utilize a portion of the upper hall for a part of the scholars. During the history of the school which covers a period of forty years there have been seventeen principals. The first high school assistant was Miss Olive Rogers. Among the most successful of the early principals were M. E. Phillips, A. W. Rosecrans and H. V. Baldwin. There are other good teachers that preceded and followed these and did their share towards raising the school to a higher standard, but there can be no valid objection in giving these men the honor of such successful effort.

“Many able scholars and professional men have had their preparatory work in this school. The first class that graduated from the school was under M. E. Phillips in 1874. The class consisted of Lyman Booth, Mrs. Westana Glenn Rosecrans and Mrs. Maggie Brown Byers. Since that time many good classes have been graduated from the school whose members are proud that the Ashton High School is their alma mater. The Ashton High School Alumni Association is a flourishing organization and its influence will be a force for good for the school.

“The influence of the former students and the general interest of the patrons of the school and the people of the village is the best evidence of the spirit and success of the school.

“Perhaps some of the older inhabitants of the village, as well as the younger generation, will be interested in the above sketch. To the critical reader some errors may be detected in data and names, but often school records are poorly kept and errors in dates are very frequent and sometimes annoyingly so, and for this reason much of the information has been obtained from inquiry. Mere facts have only been stated and some one after me has the field for embellishment.”

Possibly another reason why Ashton enjoys so much praise as not only a live village but one so mighty clean, is because its municipal affairs are conserved so creditably by its officers: J. B. Farver, president; Ralph J. Dean, clerk; Harry Pierce, E. J. Yenerick, Clifford Knapp, Charles Tuck, Adam Strabe and J. W. Griese, trustees. Ashton township and its surrounding territory are regarded as a German community very largely and that of itself assures Ashton of wealth and sturdiness of character.

Charles Heibenthal is supervisor; Fred Beach is collector; S. T. Zeller, Sr., is assessor and the highway commissioners are C.



W. Bowers, Henry Reitz and Earl Howey. George Stephan is town clerk.

Naturally in listing the business houses of a place, the banks come into view first. The Ashton Bank is a very prosperous concern. Its history has been noticed already. Its published report Jan. 20th, last, shows loans, \$420,000; bonds, \$62,000; cash means, \$79,000. Its capital stock is \$50,000 and its surplus is \$25,000. Its deposits are \$482,253.10.

The Farmers Bank was organized April 10, 1905. Its president is W. C. Yenerick; vice president, Lewis Sindlinger; cashier, E. J. Yenerick and the directors are W. C. Yenerick, Lewis Sindlinger, John M. Killmer, William Krug and Will Sandrock. The beautiful new building for this bank will be ready for occupancy in a very short while. Thus equipped the Ashton banks will have the finest homes to be found in any small town in the state. By statement dated January 19th, this bank is shown to have a capital stock of \$25,000 and undivided profits of \$3,234.42. Its deposits are \$104,414.21. Its cash means are approximately \$20,000.

At the present time, Ashton markets 450,000 bushels of grain every year. Before the elevators were built down at Middlebury on the electric road which runs from Lee Center, Ashton shipped 650,000 bushels, and inasmuch as the Middlebury houses are run by Ashton people, it might be classed as Ashton grain to this very day.

The two grain elevators of Ashton are run by O. C. Baker and R. W. Jeter.

A little further up the track, Nathan Sanders has his sheep yards. Annually, Mr. Sanders feeds thousands of sheep which are taken off here in transit and he feeds them until they are fully rested from their usually long journey from the West. Sometimes he buys and feeds his own sheep; but he prefers feeding for others. This business amounts to a large profit annually.

The physicians are Drs. William Petersmyer, C. M. Cheadle, H. A. Bremmer, E. M. Sheldon and James Brown. Dr. S. C. Gould is a D. D. S., and so is C. R. Root. H. L. Winder is the veterinarian.

There are no lawyers in Ashton: just why is inexplicable because in the probate court at least, there is a vast amount of legal business for this community to be transacted.

The business houses of the Ashton of today are: A. W. Rosecrans, general store; C. W. Jonker, jeweler; Harry Pierce, barber; G. R. Charters & Son, drugs; Randle & Lake, shoes; M. N.

Glenn, hardware; The Passtime theater, picture show, by Philip Ereich; Conrad Kliebe, butcher; The H. D. Mosher candy store; Mrs. William Fee, gift shop; Jordan & Paddock, blacksmith shop; Carl Wedler, jeweler; J. B. Farver, blacksmith; Philip Ereich, pool room; William Meister, livery; F. H. Boyd, garage; W. J. Sams, blacksmith; J. C. Griffith, lumber and coal; McCade & Weishaar, implements; Charles Bode, harness and shoemaking; Oscar Schade, pool room; Louis Sindlinger, tinner; F. P. Eisenberg, 10 cent novelty store; George Stephan, furniture and undertaking; F. I. Smith, drugs; Adam Faber, lunch room and cigars; E. S. Rosecrans, clothing; W. B. McCrea, grocer; postoffice, Harlow E. Chadwick, postmaster; Clifford Knapp, plumber and auto dealer; Joseph A. Roesler, grocer; William Leslie, implements and coal; Griffith & Moore, automobiles; L. T. Moore, harness and buggies; Ventler and Klingebiel, implements and automobiles; C. S. Kron, hotel and restaurant; G. A. Hamel, general merchandise; George Van Ness, barber; George Geyer, harness; Henry Nelson; William Schade, cigars, paints and oils and C. W. Jonker, jeweler, a very strong array of very strong business men. The Illinois Northern Utilities Company supplies Ashton with electricity and power. Ashton has the only municipal gas plant in the county. The streets are well lighted with 300-candle power electric lights, one on each corner. Cement walks have been laid before every building in Ashton and every vacant lot as well.

In Ashton township there are five quarries from which the very best of sandstone is taken. Once these quarries did a thriving business, but cement now forms so strong a competitor that but little is quarried.

Ashton township and village lead all other communities, except Dixon, and perhaps, Lee Center, with macadam roads. This town has spent large sums of money for roads. Only a short while ago \$20,000 was expended in making hard roads. Every main road in the township has been macadamized. Ashton is blessed with one of the best local newspapers in the State of Illinois. Mr. Ralph J. Dean, the proprietor, makes every train; he is constantly on the alert for locals with the result that every week he gives his readers about eight columns of locals besides a front page full of good matter pertaining to his locality. In connection with his print shop which turns out the very best of job work, Mr. Dean owns the only book store of Ashton. He is a very active wire, a money maker and saver and I put him down as the most comfortable newspaper man in the county.

## CHAPTER XX

### BRADFORD TOWNSHIP

Bradford! Another subdivision of Inlet! In Bradford the best and sturdiest of Lee county's population was started—the Norwegians, now so populous and prosperous; the Germans too started in Bradford.

John Hotzell came here about 1842, and he and Ommen Hillison kept bachelors' hall (separately) a long while before marrying. Christian Reinhart's daughter, Catherine, married Ommen Hillison and later John Aschenbrenner. The mother of Henry W. Hillison and Reinhart Aschenbrenner and Andrew Aschenbrenner came in 1845. Reinhart Gross came in 1847.

The history of the Germans is identical with that of the Norwegians. Friends back home desiring to come to America, came directly to the home of their old friend Hotzell. The latter was hospitable and he cared for them all as one by one and more came over. A day or two was all that was needed; then they sought work and later lands, always under the guidance of Neighbor Hotzell whose counsel was always good. Thus early, Bradford took on its reputation for solidity which ever since has characterized the place. When one speaks of Bradford, he is known to indicate the township where lands always are rising in value until perhaps Bradford is the highest priced land in the county.

At the last session of the board of supervisors, Bradford was honored in the selection of one of its strongest citizens, John J. Wagner, for the office of chairman.

Bradford was settled very early and Inlet was the point from which the settlers scattered into what now is Bradford.

For a long time Bradford contained its present six-mile square area and the present township of Ashton as well, and so it remained until 1861, when Ashton was set off as a township by itself. Brad-

ford obtained its name from Bradford, Pennsylvania, whence many of its population came.

In 1850 the town was organized at the home of Ralph B. Evitts. At the town meeting Elisha Pratt was made chairman, Thomas S. Hulbert, secretary and Charles Starks, moderator; George E. Haskell, justice of the peace, swore them in.

At this meeting Charles Starks was elected supervisor; Ira Brewer, town clerk; E. W. Starks, assessor; Samuel S. Starks, collector; Ralph B. Evitts, overseer of the poor; Sherman Shaw, Stephen Clink and George Yale, highway commissioners; Samuel S. Starks and Daniel Barber, constables; Elisha Pratt and Lafayette Yale, justices; Jesse Woodruff was put in charge of the town's litigation.

Meetings were held in private houses till 1856, when the school-house in Ogle Station, now Ashton, was used.

As in Inlet, Sherman Shaw was of the very first to build in Bradford, and Mr. Whitman in 1838. In 1840 Mr. Shaw built a frame house on the northeast 31. Egbert Shaw has the distinction of being the first white child born in Bradford. Ommen Hillison built a house about 1840. In 1838 Charles Starks came to Inlet and in 1839 laid his claim on east  $\frac{1}{2}$  northwest 32 and the west  $\frac{1}{2}$  northeast 32. The Whipple brothers came in about the same time. Starks began work immediately on his claim and in 1842 moved on it.

George and Milo Yale claimed the northwest 6. In 1842 their father, N. C. Yale, settled on section 1; Jesse Woodruff settled on 32; R. B. Evitts on 29 and C. Bowen settled on 29. Stephen Clink built a stone house.

In 1842 Elias Hulbert claimed south  $\frac{1}{2}$  southeast 19, and very soon thereafter moved upon it. John Owen moved in at about this time.

At the very earliest period Lewis Clapp of Lee Center, firm in his regard for Bradford, took an interest in pushing the welfare of settlers and he furnished money for fully two-thirds of the early settlers to enter their land from the Government. Others moved in rapidly; William Ross, Reinhart Gross, Conrad Reinhart (already named), Conrad Hotzell.

Ira Brewer reached Lee Center township in June, 1843. That same year he bought west  $\frac{1}{2}$  northwest 32 and east  $\frac{1}{2}$  northeast 31, Bradford. In 1845 he built a house, 19x24. He became a very large land owner in this and Lee Center townships. He was one of the fiercest enemies of the banditti which infested Inlet and



his son, George W., owns the very compact which was signed by the regulators of those days.

Among the old settlers not already named were: William S. Frost, 1838; Lorin T. Wellman, 1848; David Wellman, 1853; Harlow A. Williamson, 1850; Philip Runyan, 1850; Peter Eisenberg, 1852; Luther Baldwin, 1852; Edwin Pomeroy, 1844; Frank and Nelson DeWolf, 1837; Berghardt Albrecht, 1855; Edward W. Pomeroy, 1845; C. Bowen, L. Shumway, Samuel Cobel, William, Warren and Stephen Clink, 1841 to 1843; Ralph B. Evitts, 1842; Sherman Shaw, 1839; Elias Hulbert and Ebenezer Whipple, 1842.

The Germans which have predominated in this township ever since they began settling here, predominate today, and the descendants of those pioneers are today rich, almost to the last man. It may be said of them too, that the fortunes of the first settlers have been preserved down to the third and fourth generation.

The homes of Bradford are down-to-date, steam-heated, electric lighted, and automobiles may be found in nearly every family in Bradford. The people are enterprising to an unusual degree and in no greater manner can this enterprise have been exhibited than by the exertions of Reinhart and Andrew Aschenbrenner, sons of Catherine Aschenbrenner who have put over forty thousand dollars into the construction of the Northern Illinois Electric railroad. Only the other day when it went into the hands of a receiver, Andrew Aschenbrenner was made that receiver by the court. This road taps a fertile country and it is the only road in the world which affords the farmer along its line the opportunity to load grain and stock at his door.

Bradford was a pioneer in the formation of a mutual insurance company for members of a particular community and this company, "The Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company," always has been a model. The incorporators were Ira Brewer, Ralph B. Evitts, Thomas S. Hulbert, Charles D. Hart, Valentine Hicks, C. F. Starks and George Hulbert. It was incorporated March 30, 1869. At its first meeting of directors, held in November, 1869, fifty-four applications were received and fifty-one were approved and signed.

For many years Ira Brewer was president of this company, Samuel Dysart, secretary; C. D. Hart, treasurer; William V. Jones, general agent. A million and a quarter dollars of risks have been written, and the losses have been remarkably few.

In the southeastern part of the township the land is low; it was the edge of Inlet swamp. But it has been drained perfectly.

so that it now is valued as high as any other lands in the township.

The people of Bradford always have been of a religious turn, especially the Germans.

As early as 1850, meetings of the Evangelical church of Bradford were held at the house of John Hotzell, who built just over the line in China township. Hotzell fitted up a room for the purpose and very soon a successful Sunday school was started. These were the first German meetings of Lee county. The preachers came from Perkins Grove in Bureau county. A man named McLean was the first; William Kolp was the next. Among the original members of the congregation were: Reinhart Gross, John Aschenbremer, John Hotzell, the Conrad Reinhart family and the Conrad Hotzell family.

In 1859 a church was built on section 17 at a cost of \$1,300. In 1874 an addition was made and a steeple erected at an additional cost of \$2,700, making a total of \$4,000. The membership today is very strong in both church and Sunday school. Until recently the services were held in the German language.

It may be interesting to know that Edwin Pomeroy introduced the reaper into this community and when he used it in the wheat fields, farmers from far and near came to see it operate.

In writing a history of things and conditions around Inlet, one cannot get away from the good works of Ira Brewer and good old Uncle (George) Russel Linn. There never was a crisis these sturdy pioneers feared to meet. Lighter affairs were managed with the same determination to succeed.

Mr. Brewer understood music. Singing schools were the common source of entertainment in every locality. One day Doctor Welch handed to Mr. Brewer a subscription paper with the request that the latter head it and then circulate it. Mr. Brewer did and very presently Mr. Brewer found himself teaching in six school-houses. The tuning fork used, he fashioned on the anvil of a blacksmith shop.

In 1843, when \$40 had been raised by Daniel Frost and Russel Linn, with which to hire a teacher, it was tendered to Mr. Brewer for a winter's work and he accepted it. He also taught night school.

On one occasion when members of the "Grove Association," had been called together to settle a claim jumping case, Mr. Brewer responded. The case was over on Temperance hill, where a man deliberately jumped a settler's homestead and when the association decided he must leave "at once," he refused.

Uncle Russel Linn rose and said, "Gentlemen, we have come here to make homes for ourselves and our families. The Government has held out inducements for us to come, and we have made our homes, and we intend to defend them if we die on the defence. Then, we hope we have boys that will arise and avenge our death."

The claim jumper saw Uncle Russel and his seven boys and he declared that if he had to kill Uncle Russel and his seven boys before he could obtain possession of the land he would give it up and he did.









MAIN STREET, FRANKLIN GROVE



STREET SCENE, FRANKLIN GROVE

## CHAPTER XXI

### CHINA TOWNSHIP

By Miss Adella Helmershausen

Compiled by Adella Helmershausen (member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Mass.), from the actual reports of the early pioneers, and written records furnished by members of each family.

O lovely Lee, at Franklin Grove,  
The sylvan woodlands by;  
The wild deer there no longer rove,  
The birch canoe no more in cove,  
The creeks and waters nigh;  
There wood doves call in twilight gloam,  
There white gulls soar to heaven's dome.

The tract of the Black Hawk country included in China township, is unexcelled in healthfulness of climate, fertility of soil and picturesqueness of scenery. From Timothy's bridge to Franklin Creek, Black Bass, Hausen Pond, passed Iron Spring, Lover's Leap, Whipple Cave, on to Steamboat Rock, the lover of Nature is entranced as one beautiful view changes into another. And when to this is added the fields of grain, pastures of cattle, and commodious farm-dwellings a traveler cannot refrain from exclaiming, "These gardens! Boundless and beautiful, the prairies!"

But the crowning glory of China township is the high social, intellectual and moral standard of her pioneers. These first families were descendants of the nation's forefathers, and many of them representatives of the noblesse of Europe. The pioneers had executive ability, dauntless courage, and strict piety as their heritage.

Eighty years ago the first cabin was built on the banks of Franklin creek, and as the record of this fruitful era unfolds, the reader will marvel at the progress made, the marked absence of crime, and the sincere and noble goodness of, it seems, all the people in all the homes, for all these memorable eighty years.

Who shall tell "a tale of the timber lands and the old-time pioneers—'till the faces all shine out in the back log's blaze?"

Who, but the pioneers themselves, for the history of China township from 1834 to 1854 is entirely the history of about twenty pioneer families, their kinspeople, the happenings in each cabin, the short school sessions, and the occasional church services. So far they shall speak.

For two years after the Black Hawk war the prairies and the timberlands along Franklin creek lay in primeval beauty. Then in 1834 Jephtha Noe built the first cabin in the grove.

In June, 1835, Col. Nathan Whitney, of Unionville, Ohio, traveled along the north side of the grove, searching for a stream of running water, as far as the present site of the town of Franklin Grove. As Colonel Whitney became a settler soon afterward, he is regarded as the John Dixon of China township.

"The Noe House" stood in a picturesque, woodland spot.

The Whitney, Hussey and Helmershausen families spent their first days in China township in "the Noe House," and have remained permanent settlers.

The veteran pioneer, Charles Harrison, and his son-in-law, James Holly, made the first two claims in 1835. Later in the same year, David Holly made a claim of the southwest quarter of section 35.

James Holly built the second log-cabin which stood nearly opposite the German Baptist church, and was a landmark for many years.

The third family living at the grove in 1835 consisted of Jesse Holly, his son David Holly, who had a wife and two children; and Samuel Ayerhart. Jesse Holly died Feb. 29, 1869, aged 95 years.

Strange to relate, none of the settlers of 1835 founded families which have remained a half century or more keeping their names in memory. But while the names of Noe, Harrison and Holly are partially forgotten, the three settlers of the next year, Morgan, Yale and Minor, left large families, and well-honored names.

Also in the spring of 1836, Cyrus R. Minor purchased a claim from Mr. Brown of eighty acres, east of the grove.



In May, 1836, Edward Morgan, his wife Nancy, daughter Willa, a small child, and baby Rachel, with a nephew, Nicholas Kinman, came from Ohio, and settled on the south half of section 27.

John Wesley Morgan, born in 1837, was the first child at the grove.

The next log cabin in China township, was that of Edward Morgan.

In June, 1836, Timothy Lockwood Minor broke twenty acres of land, now owned by A. W. Crawford, for Col. Nathan Whitney.

About the first of September, 1836, Nathaniel C. Yale, his wife Mary, and their family permanently located at the grove.

Milo Yale was born Dec. 15, 1831, in New York; moved to Illinois in 1836. He was an honored and respected pioneer. He moved to Iowa and founded the town of Yale.

December 2, 1836, Cyrus R. Minor, wife, Louise Norton, and children, Sarah, Albert, Daniel and David, came from Elba, Genesee county, New York.

Cyrus R. Minor was born in 1782 in Massachusetts and died in 1846. Mrs. Minor died in 1839.

The year 1836 closed with the three families of Morgan, Yale and Minor permanently located, several claims made, and thirty-five people in the settlement.

Rev. Barton Cartwright, a pioneer Methodist Episcopal minister, says, "I was born in Auburn, New York, in 1810. I came to Illinois in 1833, and met Black Hawk on his way to Washington prison. Rev. James McKean was our first preacher in that part of the country. He preached all through what are now Ogle, Lee and Whiteside counties. I was sent on the circuit in 1837."

Squire Jeremiah Whipple located near the cave which bears his name in March, 1837.

Joseph Whipple was an old line whig and Squire "Jerry" Whipple was a strong democrat, both well read in politics, so they made the double log-cabin ring with party arguments. Most of the law suits of the day were tried by Squire Whipple, who had been a justice of the peace in New York.

In the winter of 1837, Otis Timothy drove from Buffalo, New York. He married, later, Sarah, daughter of Cyrus R. Minor.

In July, 1837, Col. Nathan Whitney came a third time to the grove.

On Feb. 8, 1838, Col. Nathan Whitney, his wife Sarah (Gray) Whitney, one son, Alexis Randolph Whitney, and their

daughters, Harriet, Eliza Ann, Cornelia; and Dr. and Mrs. Gregory, came to the grove and located in "the Noe House."

In the spring of 1838, which set in so early that wild flowers bloomed in March, Silas P. Tolman, his wife Mrs. Experience (Shaw) Tolman, and son Adrastus Tolman, moved to the present site of Franklin Grove.

During the summer of 1838, John Nichols spent some time examining the township and returned to New York to induce his daughter's family to locate here.

In 1838, Amos Hussey, his wife Mrs. Jane Fredonia (Holly) Hussey, and their two children, Mary and Jesse, came from Pennsylvania.

In October, 1838, William Henry Helmershausen, Harrison Helmershausen, and Philip Stahl came from Bangor, Maine.

William Henry Helmershausen was born near Bristol, Lincoln county, Massachusetts, Aug. 25, 1816, and died at his home on part of the original Noe claim, Dec. 6, 1901.

The second pioneer brother, Harrison Helmershausen, was born near Bristol, Lincoln county, Massachusetts, April 13, 1818.

In 1839 Rev. Erastus DeWolf claimed the east one-half of section 21. Thomas Brown from Newport, Rhode Island, came with him and made a claim.

In 1839, Evans Campbell Thomas, his wife Mary Ann Thomas, and two children, Mary and William Henry, came from Michigan to China township.

The family of Cooper are especially remembered because the daughter, Miss Louisa Cooper, taught school at "Whipple's Cave" in 1839, and all traditions agree was the first school teacher at the grove. She married Mr. Warnsley and lived near Troy Grove. In 1843 the Coopers moved to LaSalle.

This year Col. Nathan Whitney was elected one of three county commissioners.

William Loder Gorton was born in Pennsylvania, 1830. September 22, 1856, he married Margaret, daughter of Henry Irwin. He was a member of Company G, 75th Illinois Infantry, and fell while gallantly fighting at Perryville, Oct. 8, 1862.

In 1839 the Henry Irwin family came to China township and settled near Edward Morgan's.

#### THE 1840 ELECTION.

Franklin precinct in 1840 comprised the four townships known in 1914 as Nachusa, China, Ashton and Bradford. An election

was held in the double log cabin of Squire Jeremiah Whipple at "Whipple's Cave." The judges of election were Cyrus Chamberlain, Jeremiah Whipple, and Don Cooper.

China township was also called No. 9 district. On March 7, 1840, Otis Timothy was elected road supervisor of No. 9 district.

The first term of circuit court of Lee county was held April, 1840. This year the new courthouse at Dixon was erected at a cost of \$7,000. The money was donated and China township contributed her share.

Lorenzo Whiting taught school about 1840 near Tolman's timber, a short distance from the present site of Franklin Grove. He moved to Bradford township, near an old friend, Thomas Doe, and, from here was elected to the State Legislature, and long known as "the farmer senator."

In the summer of 1840, Charles Helmershausen, Sr., came from Bangor, Maine, and joined his sons, Henry and Harrison.

Sylvanus Cobb Helmershausen was born Oct. 17, 1825; died Jan. 18, 1912; married Sabina J. Fellows, of Belvidere, Dec. 20, 1859; had five children, Ida, Frederick, Lillian, Grace and May.

Norman Helmershausen, born Oct. 2, 1831; died Nov. 21, 1908.

About 1841 Michael Brewen, George O'Connor and Michael McFarland lived on Mr. McFarland's claim, near the farm owned by Robert Sproul. They were three jolly bachelors from Ireland.

In August, 1841, the John Leake, Daniel Leake and Edward Willars families came from Liverpool, England, and settled in the southwestern part of China township.

About 1842 the little village of Chaplin was laid out, and now forms the part of Franklin Grove west of the schoolhouse.

Mrs. E. C. Thomas died in August. E. C. Thomas spent the winter in Galena.

August 15, 1842, was the tenth anniversary when the troops in Black Hawk's war were mustered out by Lieut. Robert Andersen, and disbanded by Gen. Winfield Scott. So rapid had been the settlement that there were thirty surnames and twenty families in China township. At that time the township was called Fremont.

Harriet M. Helmershausen taught school in Lee Center and boarded at the home of Russel Linn. As a token of respect for the new teacher from Maine, the new baby girl in the Linn home was named "Harriet."

In 1842 Martin Eastwood located in this neighborhood.

Nathaniel Lewis located here in 1843. The Lewis family have been a credit to the community.

In 1843, Rev. Joseph and Catherine (Avy) Emmert and family, and son-in-law, Rev. Christian and Elizabeth (Emmert) Lahman and family, came to China township. Both men were German Baptist ministers. Rev. Joseph Christian Lahman was born Jan. 24, 1833, in Adams county, Pennsylvania.

John D. Lahman was born June 22, 1834, in Maryland.

No mention of Mr. Lahman's family would be complete, if "Aunt Sally" was forgotten. Mrs. Sarah (Haughtelin) Myers, was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, and has been a resident of the West since 1857.

David F. Lahman was born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, 1837.

This year the Cooper family moved from China township to LaSalle.

This year Col. Nathan Whitney opened his nursery, the first one in northern Illinois. The settlement at the grove was further increased by the advent of Henry S. Buckman, Ira Robinson, and William Clark Robinson.

In 1844 William C. Robinson and Harriet Mathilda Helmershausen were married. The family consisted of Henry Clinton, Sophia (Mrs. Robert McCoy), George Russel, and Georgiana Harriet.

John Leake was born April 17, 1808, in Leicester, England, and came to China township the latter part of 1843.

In October, 1845, Evans Campbell Thomas and Harriet A. Whitmore were married. One settler says, "At that time there were only about five wagons in China township."

Sept. 16, 1845, True Perren and Sarah Anne Perren, his wife, sold "a parcel of land" in section 3, and moved away. During this year the settlement of China township was increased by the family of Jacob Riddlesbarger.

The year 1846 saw several changes in the settlement of China township. James Dysart came to the west and secured one-half section of land, a piece for each of his children. The Dysart brothers were all located in China township before 1860. The Dysart family was founded by Joseph and Alexander Dysart of north Ireland, who located at Lancaster county, Pennsylvania.

In an eulogy on Hon. Samuel Dysart it is stated, "He made farming his chief occupation. Always an admirer of fine stock he early learned to distinguish the good points of a horse and to



judge of the merits of cattle and swine and even in boyhood had a desire to raise thoroughbred stock. In 1855 he settled in China on the 'Pines Stock Farm.' "

William Dysart began to farm his land in section 21, China, in 1850.

On April 1, 1846, a son named George W. was born into the family of Martin Eastwood and his wife, Mary Fisher.

About 1847 Mrs. Sarah (Edmonds) Nettleton taught school in China township. One of her schools she taught in the schoolhouse east of Amos Hussey's homestead.

Reinhart Gross was born Sept. 26, 1829, in Kur-Hessen, Germany. His wife, Martha Reinhart, was born in 1835, came to America 1848. He died Oct. 7, 1902. She died January, 1882.

Ezra Withey, his wife Abigail (Bradberry) Withey, and children, George C. and Abigail, settled at the grove. The family came from Maine in 1847.

Mr. and Mrs. Withey were able supporters of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In this year China township suffered a tragedy from the hands of the banditti of the prairies. At least the closest search and careful investigation could offer no other plausible cause except that a band of the banditti on the way north on a horse raid, saw a light in the cabin of Moody Thompson, a man with no family, and sacked the house and murdered him and Olig Gannerson, his guest. In fact some years later one of the band of banditti then under sentence confessed to having slain two men alone, with a piece of timber.

About 1848 John Durfee came and settled south of Col. Nathan Whitney's claim.

Nathan Whitmore taught a school in Timothy Lockwood Minor's cabin. Only large boys attended it and it was a subscription school.

During this year, Rev. Christian Lahman laid out ten acres for the site of a town. The township was called Fremont, and the town Chaplin. The Minor Hotel, Charles Ambrose's store and a blacksmith shop are all the buildings "recollected" as standing at this time.

Rev. Luke Hitchcock, who preached in the schoolhouse, in the cabin, buried the dead, and kept the scattered pioneers together for divine worship, was born April 13, 1813, at Lebanon, New York; joined Oneida conference 1834; re-admitted to Rock River

conference 1841; supply for Rock River conference in 1839; stationed at Dixon 1841; sent to Chicago 1844.

Members of the Stevens family came in 1849.

In 1848-49, a postoffice was established, with Abram Brown postmaster. The third postmaster was A. R. Whitney. A. L. Merritt, Charles B. Bill and Charles Ambrose assisted from time to time in the postoffice.

The Brecunier family came in 1849. Peter L. Brecunier was born in Huntington county, Pennsylvania, Feb. 14, 1834, and departed this life at his home in Franklin Grove, Illinois, Oct. 14, 1913, aged 79 years, 8 months.

This year the people of China township became interested in an act of the General Assembly of the people of the State of Illinois entitled "an act to provide for the construction of a plank road by general law." Approved Feb. 12, 1849. To exist thirty years. The road made travel easier and many of the people subscribed to the stock.

With the year 1850 a new era seemed to dawn. Organization, commerce, and general business developed. Up to this date the history of the township had been the local history of pioneer families. From now on we notice township and town organization, and municipal life.

About this time John M. Crawford taught school at the grove. The James Holly cabin was used as a schoolhouse. He is remembered as an able teacher.

Fremont township was 21, N. R. 10, east and south part of T. 22, N. R. 10 east in Lee county. On April 2, 1850, the township of Fremont was organized as China township. July 19, 1850, the organization was completed. George Russel Lynn, who lived near Lee Center, named the township for China, Maine, on May 14, 1850. From 1850 to 1855 town meetings were held at the farm of Henry S. Buckman.

In 1850, the following vote was polled: There were forty-six voters. Supervisor, George Russel Lynn, 30 votes; Clerk, Josiah Wheat, 45 votes; Assessor, Rev. Christian Lahman, 39 votes; Collector, Moses S. Curtis, 22 votes; Supervisor of Poor, B. Hannum; Commissioners of Highways, Jesse Hale, William Clark Robinson, Col. Nathan Whitney; Justice of the Peace, Robert Sproul; Constables, Moses S. Curtis and William Clark Robinson.

Ten highway districts were laid out. A fence law was passed by common consent.

In 1851 a log house was built east of the Amos Hussey homestead for school and church purposes. It was built by subscription.

At the town meeting this year there were seventy-seven voters. China township has six school districts, the Dysart, the Helmershausen, the Franklin Grove, the Pine View, the Sunday and the Hillison.

This year the blacksmith shop on State street in the center of the block, north of H. I. Lincoln's, was built by George W. Pense. By his industry and obliging manners Mr. Pense maintained a good trade for many years.

Webster located in the village and took charge of the hotel.

Davis came, and rented the log house built by Cyrus R. Minor.

Webster built a small stone store on the corner south of Pense's blacksmith shop. Charles Ambrose opened a dry goods store in this building. LaFayette Yale clerked in the Ambrose store.

Milton A. Crawford was born Aug. 8, 1852, in Lee county, son of John M. and Mary (Dysart) Crawford. He married Mary M. Emmert, daughter of Solomon and Mattie (Kring) Emmert.

Charles B. Bill was born at Braintree, Vermont, June 15, 1825; came to Franklin Grove in 1852, where he built the first shoe shop of that place.

Henry I. Lincoln came to Franklin Grove May 1, 1853. His wife died, leaving him a son, Frank, who married Etta Keyser. He married second, Helen M. Nay.

James Welsh was born Jan. 7, 1824, and died Oct. 11, 1910. He was a carpenter by trade, and a good citizen. He located in China township "in the fifties" and was married three times.

Louis M. Blaisdell started in the lumber business, and prospered. S. J. Smith & Co. also tried the same business, but one lumberyard was all the village could support, and the firm went out of business.

In 1853 Adrastus W. Tolman, F. D. Robertson and Rev. Christian Lahman laid out the village of Franklin Grove. The name was given to the town by John Dixon in honor of his son, Franklin Dixon. Dixon, Franklin Grove, and Nachusa, are namesakes of the Dixon family. It is said Col. John Dement had an interest in the new village for several years.

In 1854, Reuel Thorp began to buy grain and soon built up a good business.

John D. Chambers built a small store north of the track on Elm street and William J. Leake started a harness shop.

Samuel Simmons, Louis M. Blaisdell and Reuel Thorp put up residences.

A grain elevator was built south of the track. Williams opened a grocery store in one end of the elevator.

Dr. Uriah Crittenden Roe, son of Dr. John and Elizabeth (Lyons) Roe, was born at Eddyville, Lyon county, Kentucky; died at Franklin Grove, Ill. In 1846 he married Almeda Brown, a woman of many estimable qualities.

George W. Hewitt was one of the prominent factors in the early history of Lee county, one of the leading physicians of his time; possessing a knowledge and skill in medicine and surgery that caused his ability to be recognized not only in Lee county, but far beyond its boundaries. Dr. Hewitt was a native of Pennsylvania, born in Middleburg, Dec. 23, 1830. In the spring of 1854, the same year, in seeking for a wider field of operation than was to be found in the older states, he came to Illinois and on the first day of May opened an office in Franklin Grove. Here he not only established a large practice but became intimately associated with the business and social interests of the county.

Dr. Henry Miller Hewitt married Ida Eliza Jane, daughter of Conrad and Mary (Jones) Durkes, and had three children, George Washington, Mary Durkes, and Henry Miller Hewitt.

The family of Dr. David H. and Sarah (Wagner) Spickler resided several years in the village.

This year Rev. Christian Lahman purchased several short-horns and began to improve his stock.

Dr. George W. Hewitt located in the village and opened a small drug business.

Henry I. Lincoln purchased the store built by Charles Ambrose and went into the dry goods business. Charles Ambrose then built a store north of Pense's blacksmith shop. This store he sold to a new firm, "Lahman and Bill."

During this memorable year the Dixon Air Line of the Chicago & Galena Union railroad was finished, and the first train run through the village, Dec. 3, 1854.

Col. Alvah B. Fitch came as the station agent of the company and remained in this position for years, until his health failed.

The William Watson family were early settlers.

The Benjamin Velie family consisted of 1, Grace Velie Foxcroft; 2, Jennie Velie Guy, had Roy, Ross, and William Guy; 3, Charles Velie.

The Jones family located in the vicinity of Franklin Grove. Augustus Jones, 1807-1857, was an early pioneer.





PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



The blacksmith trade was followed by Solomon Sunday and his sons from 1855 to 1914 for fifty-nine years in Franklin Grove. Farming was included, and the sale of agricultural implements.

Joseph Winebrenner was a tailor in Franklin Grove from 1855 until the war broke out, when he enlisted.

An industrious and honest stonecutter came to town in 1856, and his work aided much in erecting the buildings going up rapidly,—George Engel, 1824-1905.

The Trottnow family have been in business many years, on the streets of Franklin Grove. Mr. Trottnow was a cabinet maker by trade and opened a furniture store.

George Fischbach was an honest and industrious carpenter, who came to the grove in 1857.

A well-known shoemaker of many years' service was Michael Eckhardt.

#### METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH AT FRANKLIN GROVE

James McKean was the first preacher sent on this charge. He preached in Morgan's and Minor's cabin. In 1840 Barton Cartwright succeeded him. Mr. McKean died Sept. 8, 1855, at Macomb, Illinois. Mr. Cartwright died April 3, 1895, at Oregon, Illinois.

1841. Rev. Luke Hitchcock of Dixon.

1853-54. Robert K. Bibbins of Light House Point preached once in four weeks. He died March 22, 1898, at Sandwich, Ill. He entered Rock River conference in 1847. Miss Annis Nettleton wrote that she remembered Mr. Bibbins and his family very well.

1854-1855. Henry L. Martin of Lighthouse Point organized a class, James Welsh being class leader. Miss Nettleton wrote that Mr. Grant was junior pastor with her cousin, Mr. Martin. The circuit included Ashton, Mount Pleasant and Rochelle. On his eighty-third birthday he (Mr. Martin) preached at the morning service in Court street church, Rockford, to a great congregation. His thought was distinct, his voice clear, and his sermon was a masterpiece. He and his wife were permitted to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of their wedding.

1855-1856. Michael Decker was sent to Lee Center and Franklin Grove. He entered the conference in 1842; died at Crete, Ill., Nov. 21, 1874.

1855. Luke Hitchcock, presiding elder, held the first quarterly meeting.

1857. Alvaro D. Field preached on this charge. He died Dec. 19, 1908, at Indianola, Iowa.

1858. H. Richardson.

1859. Bro. Penfield.

1860. William T. Harlow, principal of Rock River Seminary, Mount Morris, Illinois.

1861-1862. Calvin Brookins; died Sept. 25, 1881, at DeKalb, Illinois.

1863. C. W. Wright built the first church.

1864. Calvary M. Webster; died Oct. 6, 1867, at Dixon, Ill.

1866. Henry J. Huston, June 8, 1907, at Elizabeth, Colorado. He organized a Sunday school this year, 1866-67.

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Postmaster during Grant's administration: Henry A. Black was born Oct. 8, 1843, in Maine, and died June 26, 1912. He located in Franklin Grove in 1855.

George Dallas Black kept a grocery for many years. He married Clarissa Dow, a most estimable woman from Maine.

A. L. Merritt purchased the stock of drugs of Dr. G. W. Hewitt and took into partnership, John C. Black.

Charles Ambrose left China township for a more congenial climate, but the dread foe, consumption, pursued him, and he died in Texas.

Rufus Covell opened a furniture store next to William's grocery. He died at Nevada, Iowa, August, 1865.

This year on August 30, 1855, Andrew McPherran and Maria, his wife, sold a quarter of section 11, and left the grove. They are spoken of as honorable and hospitable settlers.

Thomas W. Brown located in Franklin Grove in 1856 and conducted a tailoring establishment until 1891.

#### THE UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

This society met at the house of Jonas Clisbee. In 1856, a substantial church was built opposite the schoolhouse on Elm street. Rev. T. J. Bartholomew preached first; Rev. T. J. Carney wrote the constitution. The other ministers were: J. O. Barrett, C. F. Dodge, Hudson Chase, Bro. Cook and B. F. Rogers.

John C. Black gave up the drug business with A. L. Merritt and was chosen postmaster.

In 1856, William Henry Helmershausen next purchased thoroughbred cattle and improved his herd on the "Grove Stock Farm." This year, Lahman built a store on the corner east of the Hughes Hotel. He closed the store in the fall and moved west. Robert Scott built a warehouse and a residence. Conrad Durkes opened a dry goods store, which he continued for many years with



success. Mix I. Losey opened a dry goods store but soon sold out. Carl H. Lagerquist opened a shoe shop which he and his family continued successfully for many years. Josiah Hughes and Jonas Clisbee built hotels; both were well conducted and won words of approbation from strangers.

On May 11, 1857, the first village board was elected. President, Louis M. Blaisdell; clerk, S. J. Smith; trustees, A. W. Tolman, Josiah Hughes, Jonas Clisbee, Louis M. Blaisdell, S. J. Smith; street commissioner, Jonas Clisbee; treasurer, Conrad Durkes (elected December 28, 1857).

This year a Presbyterian Sunday school was organized. Prof. T. W. Scott was the superintendent.

Other comers were: Edward and Julia (Gloss) Marvin; Frank D. and Jane (Plessinger) Kelley; Oscar W. and Mary (Dick) Hughes; Calvin and Susan Koontz resided many years in Franklin Grove and vicinity.

The O'Neil family came in 1857. Barton, Sarah Jane, and Jonas O'Neil remained permanent citizens.

John D. Sitts was in the lumber business with Sitts, Thomas & Company until 1872 when he opened a grocery store, which he continued for many years. The Cyrus Thomas family were residents of the village for many years.

On October 6, 1858, the Franklin Grove Lodge, No. 264, A. F. & A. M., was organized. The charter members were: Louis M. Blaisdell, Daniel B. McKinney, Col. Nathan Whitney, A. Randolph Whitney, William Forbes, Reuel Thorp, Conrad Durkes, John C. Black, George W. Hewitt, Alvah B. Fitch, Peter C. Rooney, Michael Decker, Isaac T. Forbes and Thomas Lewis Wood.

The price of real estate was increasing. On September 16, 1858, Samuel H. Beardsley sold his farm of one hundred and sixty acres in section 29 for \$2,560. On July 19, 1858, Charles B. Bill and Catherine, his wife, sold lots 21 and 22 in Chaplain, for a consideration of \$600.

The Gilbert family are numerous in China township, and are good farmers (1859).

In 1860, Henry I. Lincoln erected a large stone store on Elm street near the track. On June 3, 1860, a great tornado swept across the south end of China township, tearing up large trees and ruining crops. The roar of wind could be heard twenty-miles north of the path of the storm. The lightning was incessant and the darkness appalling.

On January 1, 1861, the Presbyterian church was organized in Franklin Grove by Rev. W. W. Harsha, Rev. E. Erskine and Charles Crosby, a ruling elder. The church was affiliated with Rock River Presbytery.

Rev. Thomas J. Carney was pastor of the First Universalist Society, during the Civil war. His parsonage stood on the land now included in the north part of the schoolyard. He was an able man of fine presence and sterling character.

In 1861, Louis M. Blaisdell of Franklin Grove was elected one of three commissioners to expend the sum of \$6,000 voted by Lee county, to "equip the volunteers of Lee county" enlisting to go to the front. Mr. Blaisdell was an able man and his executive ability was much needed at this time.

In 1861-1862 George W. Brayton was postmaster in Franklin Grove. The family consisted of Frank, Alice and Lucy.

#### THE "G" OF 1862

July 6, 1862, Abraham Lincoln issued a call for 300,000 men and Illinois was asked for 52,296.

The Company "G" was raised in China township. Every man who enlisted knew that it was a hard and deadly combat. The romance of the war was over. Twenty-seven men in Company G left unprotected wives at home. Joseph Williams and Robert L. Irwin did good service in organizing the company. Lincoln's hall rang with cheers, and the schoolhouse fairly trembled with stamping, as the patriotic gatherings assembled night after night. The captain was Joseph Williams of Franklin Grove. The second lieutenant was Robert L. Irwin of China township. The sergeants were Manley E. Brown, Charles H. Twombly and William Vance. The corporals were C. Brinkerhoff, Joseph Winebrenner, Walter Gilbert, Caleb Forbes, James Dysart. Of the privates from China were Jeremiah Christman, Clayton Chronister, Wallace Eastwood, William D. Forbes, John Feaster, William L. Girton, Noah Nay, Geo. W. Pense, Daniel Spafford, Thomas Irwin, Andrew Timothy, John Wingert, William Watson. For nearly a month after being mustered they drilled, and on September 27th they joined the troops at Jeffersonville, Indiana. They became part of the Thirtieth Brigade, Ninth Division, Third Army Corps of the Army of the Ohio. On October 8th they met the enemy at Perryville and suffered a terrible loss. Charles H. Twombly fell and was reported "missing." William Loder Girton was shot on the

battlefield. Until the captain of the nation fell, and Abraham Lincoln had joined the martyred dead, until peace was declared and "the grand review" in Washington had disbanded, the brave boys in China township sacrificed their all, and hailed again an undivided nation and an unsullied flag.

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The Franklin Grove Cemetery Association dates from 1863. Isaac Twombly was president; Conrad Durkes, secretary; Joseph Williams, George H. Taylor, William S. Thompson, trustees. It is one of the neatest and best kept cemeteries in the state. The location is beautiful; the view from the west with sinking vale and rising bluff being one of great beauty. Many fine monuments mark the last resting-places of the dead.

Mrs. Holly's was the first burial. Mrs. Cyrus R. Minor who died this year was interred near her home, and her remains not brought to the cemetery until later.

The Carl H. Lagerquist family conducted a general boot and shoe shop for nearly a half century in Franklin Grove. Carl H. Lagerquist died 1887, aged seventy-three years.

In 1864, as an insurance agent, William T. Pearl was well and favorably known.

Mr. Hussey, a Universalist minister, his wife, and two daughters, resided some years in the village; left Franklin Grove for Oregon; and then Wisconsin.

Dr. Christy had a large practice in the village before he moved away. His son, Bayard, was lost at sea.

In 1864, the village built up a number of sidewalks, fixed the crossings, graded the roads, and opened up the alleys.

In an attack on Conrad Durkes, president of the village board by three men who wished a license to run a gambling den, Samuel Simmons was severely injured. No small praise is due to Mr. Durkes' memory for the noble and heroic stand he took in keeping a high moral standard in the community.

A large elevator was erected this year by the firm of Frost & Hanger, who did an extensive business.

The German Lutheran church was organized by Rev. William Uhl during 1864. In 1865, the society united with the Presbyterians in building the church which later they purchased, and in which they have since worshiped.

Daniel Moore Bradstreet was a patriotic orator during the Civil war, and Clarissa Dudley Todd was his wife. He was a fine Biblical scholar, a close historical student, a humble Christian and an old school gentleman.



Mary, fifth daughter and eleventh child of Major Daniel Moore Bradstreet and Clarissa Dudley (Todd) Bradstreet, was born in Ulysses, Tompkins county, New York, July 27, 1841. In 1844 she moved to Illinois; attended Mt. Morris Seminary; taught school in Ogle county; assistant principal in High school, Polo, Illinois; hired as principal High school, Franklin Grove, Illinois; married June 27, 1866, Henry Charles Frederick Helmershausen, Jr.

The Don Campbell family were engaged in the millinery business for years in Franklin Grove. The John Coyle family resided many years in the village. Mrs. Roche, a widow, her son, and two daughters, Mary and Hannah Alice, resided some years in the village.

At a town meeting held March 1, 1865, seventy-nine votes were polled. The first election under a special charter occurred March 1, 1865. The new village board were: President, Conrad Durkes; clerk, Oscar W. Hughes; treasurer, William Clark Robinson; trustees, Josiah Hughes, J. J. Lichty, Joseph Williams, Jonas Clisbee, George W. Brayton, George H. Taylor.

This year the German Lutheran and the Presbyterian Societies united in an effort to build a church to be occupied by both societies alternately. A substantial and commodious building was erected on Elm street, and services have been held in it until 1914. The church is a cherished landmark of the village.

Gabriel Miller conducted a dry goods store for many years. The W. N. and Julia Baldwin family were well known, Mr. Baldwin being in business many years. The Spafford family were patriotic and loyal. The father and three sons fought in the Civil war, Daniel Spafford, Sr., Joseph B. Spafford and Thaddeus Spafford. A family with interesting recollections of Abraham Lincoln were the Silas Yingling and Hannah (Reigle) Yingling family.

In 1865, Chillon Buck kept the flour and feed mill on Bradford street south of the schoolhouse, and was well and favorably known. He afterwards purchased a threshing engine and he and his sons threshed for the farmers in the vicinity. Harry Bratton has been well known in Franklin Grove as a furniture dealer, and undertaker. The Webb family came April 1, 1865. John Webb was born April, 1827, and Mrs. John Webb, May, 1834. They were married November 11, 1851, in Tyrone township, Blair county, Pennsylvania.

In October, 1866, Baltus Lookingland, his wife and family, came to Nachusa township and from there to China township where he rented the farm claimed by John Durfee.



During 1866, the church of the First Universalist Society was served by Rev. Mr. Hussey. His family consisted of his wife, and two daughters, and they are spoken of with respect and affection.

Among the enterprising farmers in the vicinity at this time were, Freeman Ellsworth, Levi Hostetler, Englehard Feman, Philip Klinetob, Joseph Bruner, Henry Cosh and others.

The Secrist family came to the village of Franklin Grove in 1866 and were actively engaged in the social and business interests of the town. The Brewer family consisted of the parents and one son, Lorenzo, who married Anna Gans and moved to Chicago.

In 1867, William Henry Helmershausen and Samuel Dysart purchased thoroughbred cattle, red Durham shorthorns.

The only newspaper up to this time was "The Franklin Grove Gazette" which was printed on a Dixon press. When it stopped its issue, there was no paper at the grove.

Joseph Graff was born April 28, 1845, in France, of French and German parentage. The Graff family came to Tiffin, Ohio, and from there to Dixon.

November 28, 1868, Luther F. Ramsdell purchased the F. L. Fish farm of 160 acres at \$50 per acre.

William Crawford was well and favorably known as an undertaker for many years.

On October 9, 1868, the Nathan Whitney Chapter, No. 129, Royal Arch Masons, was organized. The charter members were: Col. Nathan Whitney, A. Randolph Whitney, Alvah B. Fitch, George W. Hewitt, Reuel Thorp, William Forbes, Jerry M. Forbes, M. Flint, Samuel Dysart, H. H. Glenn, W. H. Emerson, John L. Strock, Peter C. Rooney.

The Isaac T. and Naim B. Forbes family came to China town ship in 1868.

"The Franklin Reporter," was started by Mr. John Blocher and published from 1868-1871; Dr. David H. Spickler from 1871-1875; Prof. Thomas W. Scott, 1875-1876; Rev. D. B. Senger, 1876-1886; E. E. Manning, 1886-1889; Prof. Scott again, 1889-1891; Singleton W. Reigle, 1891 as administrator; Prof. T. W. Tuttle, 1891-1894; George W. Gaver, 1894; C. A. Bancroft, E. P. Harrison, Simon D. Remley, J. C. Cooke, Bela R. Halderman. This paper is the oldest weekly in the county.

The Lott family came to Lee county in 1869. Mrs. Kate Dunn came to Lee county March 28, 1865. In 1869, Curtis Dunn and Katherine Strausner were married.

In 1870, China had included township 21, and the south one-half of section 17 and 18 of township 22, north, range 10 east of the fourth principal meridian. During this year the west one-half was set off and named Nachusa, the Indian's name for John Dixon who had long white hair. China township then contained twenty-seven square miles, lying nine miles long and three miles wide.

After 1855, the town meetings were held in Bishop Hughes' hotel. At the election this year, 262 votes were polled out of 450 legal votes.

Samuel Dysart introduced the pedigreed Berkshire swine and succeeded well with them on his stock farm.

On October 11, 1870, Lodge No. 409, Independent Order of Odd Fellows was organized. The charter members were: Singleton W. Reigle, George Fischbach, George Engel, William H. Bassler and Nelson Strong.

This year Warren Encampment, No. 122, was organized.

Among the enterprising farmers who rented land in this vicinity were William H. Myers, Conrad Steen, Charles Kerst, George Hoffman and others.

In 1871 Isaac Twombly and Henry A. Black built a double, two-story store north of the Robinson building.

On June 13, 1872, the Lady Franklin Chapter, No. 22, Order of the Eastern Star, was organized.

This year Richard Archibald Canterbury built the Canterbury block, which added materially to the appearance of the town street.

George W. Newcomer, born February 3, 1838, married Julia A. Walter of Polo, April 8, 1873, died August 24, 1906; was a well known pioneer.

In 1873, China township had ninety per cent less delinquent tax than any township in Lee. This same year, William Henry Helmershausen won premiums from the Rochelle fair on his entire exhibit.

The Lee County Old Settlers' Association was organized August 30, 1873, and for forty years the settlers of China township have attended its sessions and contributed to its success.

Jacob R. Group was a wagon-maker and carpenter, and a faithful workman.

In March, 1874, the Daughters of Rebekah, Astoria Lodge, No. 67, was organized.

The Abraham and Frances Troupe family consisted of Margaret M. and Frederick.

In 1874, the Band hall was built for the pleasure of the band boys and their friends.

In 1874, at an immense cost of over \$13,000 a finely equipped wind gristmill was erected by John L. Strock, Joseph, John and David Lahman.

Rev. Johannes Heinrich Stauffenberg preached for thirty-five years in Franklin Grove, in China township. He served longer in his pulpit than any other minister in China township. He founded the congregation in Ashton and Dixon, preached in Rochelle and Rock Falls. Besides this he did much teaching of German.

During 1875, John D., Joseph C. Lahman and John L. Strock, organized the J. D. Lahman & Company, manufacturing firm. The output was the Great Western Seeder.

In 1875, the assessment value of horses, cattle, sheep and swine was set at \$70,000, which gives an idea of how the progressive farmers of China township improved their stock.

This year the wind gristmill was built.

The year of the Centennial of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, 1876, saw several citizens journeying to Philadelphia.

The Franklin house was built and had a good patronage under C. L. Anthony. It was called the best hotel between Chicago and Iowa.

Alpheus Meredith and Barbara Middlekauff were married May 1, 1870. In February, 1878, they moved to Franklin Grove and conducted a bakery and ice cream parlor with success.

C. Walter Trostle was engaged in the sale of farm implements, wagon-making and blacksmithing.

In 1879, R. A. Canterbury began the hardware business in Franklin Grove. He was in a firm with Isaac Twombly.

P. O. Sproul started a newspaper called "The Enterprise" which was issued from June, 1879. It was a clean, newsy little sheet.

Outside of Franklin Grove the census of 1880 showed 681 settlers. At the election this year, 298 votes were polled. The census of 1880 showed a population of 730.

In November, 1880, "The Enterprise" ceased its publication.

In February, Warren Encampment, No. 122, was removed from our village to Amboy.

Through the efforts of Rev. Anthony Hasbrouck Schoonmaker, the Dixon District Camp Meeting Association was located on a

ten-acre strip west of the Methodist Episcopal church in Franklin Grove, July 12, 1881.

The Woman's Christian Temperance Union was organized in August, 1882, and named the Frances E. Willard Union.

In April, 1884, August F. Kohl and Caroline F. A. Bettin, his wife, and their family, came from Schoenwerder, Germany to Franklin Grove. On March 22, 1913, they celebrated their golden wedding with forty-five descendants present.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal church was organized in the home of Mrs. Emma Caroline Crawford in May, 1885, by Mrs. Adeline (Bowman) Stuff, wife of the pastor, Rev. G. L. S. Stuff. Four of the charter members belonged in 1914, having a record of twenty-nine years' service.

In 1885, at the fourth commencement of the Franklin Grove High school, the following program was given June 12, 1885:

Music, Quartette.

Recitation, "The Relief of Lucknow," Cora Eick.

Essay, "Take Ye Away the Stone," Tillie A. Graff.

Recitation, "The Ride of Paul Venarez," Clytie C. Dow.

Solo, "Ah, I have sighed to rest me"—Verdi—Minnie Ada Hughes.

Recitation, "The Bishop's Visit," William McGregor.

Essay, "The Why and the Whither," Maud Minnie Adella Helmershausen.

Recitation, "The Mountain Lamb," Nettie Trottnow.

Duet, "There's a Sweet Wild Rose," Mrs. Flora (Taylor) Timothy and Ella E. Bill.

Recitation, "Little Steenie," Vinnie Eick.

Essay and Valedictory, "Silent Workers," Gertrude Gifford Sitts.

Guitar Solo, "Home, Sweet Home," Reuben E. Brackett.

Awarding of diplomas, John D. Sitts.

During 1887, the Presbyterian congregation and their friends, erected a church at a cost of nearly five thousand dollars. Since then a good pipe organ has been installed which adds to the beauty of the church. The building is symmetrical and in good proportion, thus adding to the appearance of the village.

Old Settlers' Day was held August, 1887, on the camp grounds at Franklin Grove.

The Franklin Grove Bank under the state law with a capital of \$25,000 was organized in 1889.



In 1890, the population of China township according to the census was 1,361. That of Franklin Grove was 736.

The Lee County Telephone Company was incorporated April 16, 1897.

In 1900, the population of China township according to the census was 1,315. That of Franklin Grove was 681.

On July 17, 1900, many citizens of China township attended the splendid exercises on the occasion of the laying of the corner stone of the new courthouse at Dixon.

On Saturday, August 16, 1902, Henry I. Lincoln was eighty years old.

June 18, 1902, Mary, second wife of Charles Henry Twombly, mother of Carrie and Sophronia Rebecca, second wife of Jerry M. Forbes, died in Concordia, Kansas.

The new Methodist church was erected at a cost of over eight thousand dollars, and dedicated October 6, 1902, with imposing and appropriate services.

In 1894, a fine brick school building was erected at a cost of \$9,000. Later the trustees purchased several lots of Charles Helmershausen, Jr., and now have the entire frontage of the block for a school playground. The appearance of the building and the grounds is a credit to the town.

The first banquet of the Franklin Grove High School Alumni Association was held in the Assembly room of the school building, June 7, 1913.

Dr. Walter L. Moore, dentist in Franklin Grove, married Minetta Pauline Roe.

## 1843-1914

### THE GERMAN BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. Christian Lahman and his father-in-law, Rev. Joseph Emmert, were ministers in Pennsylvania, and maintained family worship after they moved to China township.

In 1844, the Jacob Riddlesbarger family came to the grove. As new settlers were added, a church building was erected in the Emmert cemetery. This was enlarged as the congregation increased. A large church building was erected north of the village and services alternate were held in the two buildings.

FRANKLIN GROVE OF TODAY

It should be no trouble to write of this beautiful spot at any stage of its life. From earliest boyhood I have roamed around Franklin Grove. A few of the old settlers remain; that is, the third crop. One, Mr. Charles Hausen, of the first, remains, alone. For views and valuable assistance I am indebted deeply to Mr. Bela R. Halderman, of the Franklin Grove Reporter, one of the oldest and one of the best and most reliable institutions in Lee county. He loaned me cuts; hunted and obtained information and was my faithful friend and adviser. So, too, Mr. C. D. Hussey, the oldest business man in the village in point of business career.

The council is constituted as follows: Dr. F. M. Banker, president of the board and mayor; A. B. Wicker, village clerk; William Bucher, village police; Samuel Herbst, A. J. Stewart, Dr. W. L. Moore, Simon D. Remley, Albert Carpenter, trustees.

The population is about 750. The main street is lighted by boulevard lamps, a group of three to each lamp. An all night service of electric lighting and power is supplied by the Illinois Northern Utilities Company; Glen Wright, manager.

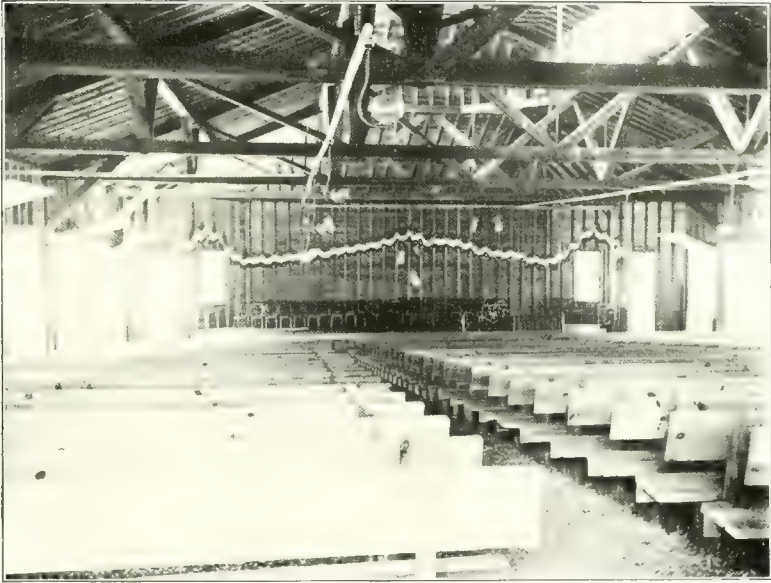
Every inch of town lot frontage has a cement sidewalk. The early fathers of the place believed in tree planting, and now Franklin Grove is a grove indeed; a veritable forest of elms and maples, hard and soft. In that respect, this village is most beautifully ornamented.

The schools here have a splendid reputation. Superintendent Miller gives them great praise. Nine months schooling in the year is given. The enrollment is 180.

High School .....	55
Grammar .....	32
Intermediate .....	49
Primary .....	44
<hr/>	
Total .....	180

The salary account is \$3,100 per annum, outside the janitor. Prof. H. G. Anderson is superintendent; Miss Beryl Skinner is principal; Miss Ethel Holmgren teaches the grammar school; Miss Florence Wollensak, the intermediate; and Miss Frances Vaughan the primary. The directors are Fred H. Hausen, president; M. V. Peterman, clerk; and F. D. Lahman.

Some of the largest landholders of the county live around this place, and the land is very high priced. Among the number are



INTERIOR OF CAMPMEETING TABERNACLE



EXTERIOR OF CAMPMEETING TABERNACLE





Christian Gross. His relative, Henry W. Hillison, the first born Norwegian child, owns over one thousand acres of the best land in Lee county. He lives on his farm on Temperance Hill in the south end of the township. The Dysart brothers are very large land-owners; Fred H. Hausen; Ira J. Trostle; John Reinhart; Henry Reinhart; Marcus Wingert; Willis Riegle; Mrs. John Miller; Luther F. Ramsdell; John Mong; John Buck; Earl Buck; Ira Buck; Oliver Buck; C. D. Hussey; Charles Weighbright; Milton Crawford; A. W. Crawford; Mrs. Carrie W. Crawford; Mrs. August Petrie; Peter Brecunier; the David Miner estate and Thomas Gilbert are among the largest landholders in China township, and most of them live in Franklin Grove. The community is very wealthy.

Franklin Grove from time immemorial has been dry territory. It is a church loving and church going community.

The Dunkards here are very numerous, and theirs is the largest church in the village, costing \$7,000. Rev. Cyrus Suters is the clergyman. The M. E. church cost \$10,000. Rev. A. E. Ullrich is pastor. The Presbyterian cost \$8,000. Rev. R. L. McWherter is the pastor. There is also a German Lutheran church here. All the church buildings are frame; but architecturally speaking, they all are beautiful.

The camp-meeting and assembly grounds here are features of great importance in church life. The grounds contain fifteen acres. Thereon are forty or fifty cottages permanently built. Annually large numbers bring their tents and families and make a summer outing here. To those who do not care to take the trouble, there is situated conveniently, a boarding hall with sleeping apartments above. The average attendance on Sundays at the camp-meetings is 750. On big Sundays as many as 10,000 people have been present. The camp-meeting occupies July; the Chautauqua, August. The assembly hall seats 2,000 comfortably. A. M. Newcomer of Mount Morris, is the superintendent; Andrew F. Dierdorff; E. C. Page; I. R. Titus; Robert Adams; Fred D. Stone; A. B. Peterbaugh; N. G. VanZandt, are directors; A. E. Ullrich, secy. and treas. J. M. Phelps is president, and W. B. Doble is vice president.

The grounds primarily were designed for camp-meeting purposes, and in earlier years, these meetings were attended by thousands of people. Noted preachers always have been present to preach, which in large measure carried the Chautauqua features.

Far and wide Franklin Grove has been known for years, for its successful camp-meetings.

Rev. A. M. Schoonmaker was the founder of this successful institution. His faith was sublime. In 1883 he went ahead and built the buildings. He bought the ground and platted it into lots. It was an instant success. For twenty miles around the people flocked to the meetings. When the Chautauqua feature came west, these grounds so readily adapted themselves to its purposes, that after a seasonable period from the adjournment of the camp-meetings, Franklin Grove was placed in the circuit and its annual features are of the very highest quality.

The Franklin Grove Bank enjoys a remarkable record. Since it was organized in 1889, the original officers have been reelected annually, excepting only the rare cases of death. I believe the only death has been that of Conrad Durkes. It is a very rich bank, with deposits above \$300,000.

Its officers are: John D. Lahman, president; W. C. Durkes, vice president; S. A. Durkes, cashier; Robert Johnson and Christian Gross, besides the officers named, are directors.

The business men are all substantial men, and nearly every one has been engaged here a lifetime; C. D. Hussey perhaps the longest. His father was one of the very earliest settlers of the township and Mr. Hussey lives on the old homestead to this very day, just on the edge of town. He is in the lumber and coal trade. M. V. Peterman is another lifelong merchant of the place. Dry goods exclusively are sold by him. L. A. Trottnow has one of the best grocery stores in Lee county. He is tremendously active in business life. He is interested in every movement that will improve the village. He is a power. The genial postmaster is James H. Lincoln. The Phenix Hotel is managed by Mrs. Lou Zoeller. A. Kullmer is proprietor of the bakery and restaurant. Frank D. Kelly has a large dry goods and hardware business; George Ives' drug store is one of the best in the county. Ed L. Lott has the meat market; Frank Maronde, hardware; Phillips Bros., barbers; George Westfield, barber shop; H. N. Brattan, furniture and undertaking; Robert Jacobs, livery; A. Meredith, ice cream and confectionery; H. W. Dysart is one of the big grain buyers of the county. He also sells seeds, flour and feed. The Farmers' elevator, run by E. A. Pegram, manager, is the other elevator, and also sells seeds and grain; coal too. In the neighborhood of 600,000 bushels of grain is marketed here per annum. J. S. Tompkins has the paint, oil and wall paper store; G. W. Ling,

feed sheds; William Trottnow, shoe repairing; Andrew Dierdorff, real estate and loans; O. E. O. Orner, farm implements; Will Miller, harness; Linnie Bratton, "Home Restaurant"; John Maronde, shoes; Henry A. Dierdorff, plumbing and heating establishment; John Kelly, blacksmith; Henry Sunday, implements and blacksmithing; Charles Howard, cement blocks; Frank Lager, jeweler; Charles Hunt, harness; H. C. Stultz, grocer; Fred Blocher has a remarkably fine clothing store; New Colonial Theatre, J. C. Cook, proprietor; Glenn Wright, pool and billiards.

Way back to the days of Dr. Hewitt, Franklin Grove always has been provided with the best of surgeons. Dr. F. M. Barker; Dr. W. C. Smith, Dr. Adam Grim. Dentist: Dr. W. L. Moore. Veterinarians: J. H. Root and William Hepfir.

The Sterling Tea & Produce Co., Bert Morgan, manager, does an enormous business in poultry and eggs and ice.

Societies and club life always have been features of this village. Franklin Grove Lodge 2264, A. F. & A. M., is very prosperous. So too Nathan Whitney Chapter 129. Officers of the blue lodge are: Charles Kelly, W. M.; W. L. Moore, S. W.; G. S. Ives, J. W.; G. D. Black, Treas.; N. A. Whitney, Secretary; J. R. Dysart, Tyler. Of the Chapter: J. R. Dysart, H. P.; N. K. Northrup, K.; H. Reinhart, Scribe; Dr. A. Grim, Treas.; N. A. Whitney, Secy.; G. Lookingland, Sentinel. Of the O. E. S.: Mrs. Nellie Stewart, W. M.; N. A. Whitney, W. P.; Mrs. Katherine Cover, A. M.; Mrs. Drucilla Banker, Conductress; Mrs. Mattie Ramsdell, Assoc. Conductress; John W. Cover, Treas.; Annis M. Roe, Secy.; Mrs. Carrie Rim, Ada; Miss Marjorie Grim, Ruth; Mrs. Zilpah Peterman, Esther; Mrs. Edna Trottnow, Martha; Mrs. Lilla Dysart, Electa; Mrs. Grace Remley, Chaplain; Mrs. Grace Stultz, Marshal; Mrs. Vera Gross, Warden; Fred C. Gross, Sentinel.

Knights of Pythias, Grove Lodge 504: Foster Mattern, C. C.; Reinhart W. Smith, V. C.; Simon D. Remley, Prelate; Grover Lott, M. of A.; Robert W. Crawford, M. of W.; John W. Cover, M. of F.; Henry W. Sunday, M. of E.; Robert Ramsdall, I. G.; Amos Wilson, O. G.; George E. Schultz, K. of R. & S.

The clubs, the Clio, the Priscilla, and the Sorosis, are very active and influential. Of the Clio it may be said Chautauqua work is its specialty. Mrs. Nellie Hausen is president; Mrs. Jennie Sunday is vice president; Mrs. Maude Phillips, secretary; and Mrs. Grace Stultz is treasurer. The membership is limited to twenty-five and it is filled.

Of the Priscilla Embroidery Club, Mrs. Jennie Riegle is president; Mrs. Jennie Sunday is vice president; and Mrs. Hannah Conlon, secy. and treas. The membership is limited to thirty, and filled.

Of the Sorosis Club, Mrs. Hannah Conlon is president; Mrs. Elizabeth Crawford is vice president and librarian; and Miss Lulu Miller, secy. and treas. Study for 1913-1914: "Taming of the Shrew"; "All's Well That Ends Well"; "Comedy of Errors." Required reading: William Shakespeare; a critical study. Limited membership: 20 active; 20 associate. Special days for Illinois and its laws; current events; American and other countries.

Besides these, there are the M. W. A., the strongest order in the village, about 200 members; the Stars of Equity; and the Mystic Workers.

Grove City Camp No. 45: Consul, Foster Mattern; Worthy Adviser, Robt. Ramsdell; Banker, Henry A. Dierdorff; Escort, Don C. Hussey; Clerk, William F. Miller; Watchman, Amel Bettine; Sentry, Harold Kelly; three trustees, S. D. Remly, W. O. Sunday, W. W. Phillips. Officers M. W. A. Camp.

Mystic Workers of the World: Prefect, W. E. Trottnow; Monitor, Miss Mary Brown; Secy., Mrs. Annis Roe; Banker, S. A. Durkes; Marshal, Mrs. Maud Phillips; Warder, Miss L. M. Weitzel; Sentinel, N. A. Whitney; Supervisors, Mrs. Harriet Ainsworth, Mrs. Hannah Conlon, Mrs. W. B. Holley. Membership 71.







GALENA AVENUE. LOOKING FROM A POINT BETWEEN THE COURTHOUSE AND  
THE NACHUSA HOUSE  
From an old photograph



DIXON IN 1832

## CHAPTER XXII

### DIXON

In such a frontier outpost as was Dixon, in its very early years, the life of the settler might be said to have been more or less precarious, especially after the Indian war of 1832 and the threatened Winnebago outbreak of the year following. Dangers, however from Indians were less to be feared than dangers from the thieves and counterfeiterers and claim-jumpers, who sought the new country as an asylum, and for the purpose of plying their craft.

In each community associations were formed by settlers and these associations adopted constitutions and by-laws and amalgamated themselves with the associations of other communities so that at a moment's notice, if the local body found itself unable to cope with the offenders, others reinforced still others. It was a sort of endless chain.

Almost everything of local and general worth pertaining to Dixon, has been noticed, except perhaps the Bull-Anderson claim jumping incident. A poor settler in Sublette township was holding down a claim. A neighbor named Anderson, who owed him a grudge, came to Dixon and representing to one Bull, who bought claims once in a while, that he was the owner of the claim, sold it to Bull and the latter at once stepped over to the United States land office and paying the money, entered it in his name.

The moment the news reached Sublette precinct, the local association started to Amboy, where large reinforcements joined, and together the mass of men journeyed to Dixon to pay their respects to Bull, innocent of wrong as he was. Just south of Dixon the greater number of the committee tarried in the timber while a committee went into the old Western Hotel to get Bull. To represent Bull in the proposed trial, Messrs. Badger and Blair were chosen and, when Bull was called, he very natur-

ally was indignant. He was picked up and passed over the heads of the people and thrown unceremoniously into a wagon. At this time the committee poured out from the woods. The wagon had started for the jail to lodge Bull there for safety.

At that particular time the notorious Bridge, of Ogle county, was confined, pending his trial. Constable N. G. H. Morrill when he saw the crowd, thought it had come over from Ogle to lynch Bridge, then in jail here, and he demanded that they release the prisoner to him. But Constable Morrill was tossed aside unceremoniously. Bull at last was enabled to get a hearing and when Badger and Blair learned that he was a respectable man who at times bought claims in a legitimate manner, he was acquitted and later the neighbor settled the account by giving to Bull his note for the money paid for the claim. But not all the defendants got off so easily. Many were ordered out of the county and not one instance is recorded of the man who failed to go when ordered. The claim jumpers claimed that so long as title to the land was in the United States, there was no property in bare claims and so their sale was illegal and after the claimant had abandoned the claim, it was anybody's privilege to take it up. The claim jumpers society held otherwise and subsequently the Legislature acknowledged property rights in claims and sundry laws were passed to protect the claimant in those rights.

In 1837 the claim association was formed at Dixon's Ferry and the following persons were made members by signing the agreement: Samuel C. McClure, Hugh Moore, John Chamberlin, Samuel Anthony, John H. Champlin, James Moore, A. Menten, S. N. Anthony, Henry Moon, Cyrus Chamberlin, William G. Elder, Josiah Moore, J. D. Pratt, Robert Murray, Edwin W. Hine, Isaac S. Boardman, J. B. Dills, Alanson Dickerman, John Richards, Caleb Tallmadge, Charles Franks, Smith Gilbraith, Oliver Everett, Joseph Crawford, Timothy L. Miner, Samuel M. Bowman, James Kent, Moses Crombie, Major Chamberlin, Daniel Koons, Nehemiah Hutton, James M. Santee, William P. Burroughs, Thomas S. Banner, Charles F. Hubbard, John Carr, William Graham, Edward Brandon, G. Wetzler, J. Caldwell, J. Young, J. P. Dixon, John Dixon, J. Murphy, James Evans, (by John Dixon, his agent), James W. Stephenson, John W. Dixon, Joseph Court-right, B. B. Browne, Samuel Johnson, Jesse Bowman, James Holly, Thomas McCabe, W. C. Bostwick, John Wilson, John Brandon, Jude W. Hamilton, Ward Rathbone, Daniel O'Brien, Stephen Fuller and Jesse P. Bailey.



The reader will notice that this list of names contained men from Galena to Peoria, and that Moses Crombie from Inlet, is included.

But very few of those men actually lived in Dixon. Most of them were hold-claims and when this large class of men came to the ferry on business, it then was a very busy place.

During the Black Hawk war, a man, and army sutler, named Tilson, established himself in the Dixon cabin as sutler and trader and in the winter of 1833-4, John K. Robison taught the Dixon and Kellogg and one or two other children in one of its rooms.

Ogee built the tallest part of this cabin, of hewn logs and this was the part used by John Dixon for merchandising purposes.

When Mr. Dixon bought the ferry from Ogee, this upright portion was all that was built. Immediately upon taking possession, Mr. Dixon built a double cabin of rough logs close to it. Subsequently when he finished the block house portion and made it habitable, he joined it to his double cabin by a connecting portion of split shakes.

The roof was built of shakes; the chimneys were built of stone, partly on the outside of the house. A small lean-to was built on the north side, which latter was used for a kitchen.

By looking at the picture of it presented in this book, a small building will be noticed on the north side of the river. This was the fort built by Zachary Taylor and his regulars while encamped during the Black Hawk war. It was built for the purpose of protecting the ferry during the war and he named it Fort Dixon. This building was rather longer than wide. Around it port holes were left through which to fire in case of attack.

Around all this, an embankment of earth was thrown about five feet high and covering a square of ground about 500 feet. The fort stood about 350 feet north of the present north end of the bridge and about seventy-five feet to the westward.

Up until about the year 1843 the old fort still stood. The old Galena stage road ran to the westward along this south embankment and between it and the river. Then it turned at the southwest corner of the embankment and traversed a northwesterly course through Ogle and Carroll counties and on into Jo Daviess county. To this very day, the old diagonal road is used for a considerable distance through Carroll county between Milledgeville and Lanark and I have traveled it many times.

This old log house, the first to be erected in Dixon, faced south, being placed at a slight angle to the river and directly across the old trail from Peoria, now Peoria avenue. It stood about 200 feet from the river. The next house built in Dixon stood immediately to the east of the corner now occupied by the City National Bank, on the spot on which the directors' rooms rest today. It was a log building, built by James P. Dixon, and was about sixteen feet square, with a small lean-to built against its east side. In this building the postoffice was located when Mr. John Dixon was postmaster. This house disappeared about the year 1855. Some have maintained that the old north side block house stood until that year, but this is a mistake. In the year 1836, our first regular merchants, Chapman & Hamilton opened their store in the block house part of the original mansion and Father Dixon who had done a limited amount of trading and had continued to run the ferry, removed to his claim, a few rods southwest of what now is the Chicago and Northwestern passenger station.

In the autumn of 1836, the size of the place had increased by the appearance of the first frame house built by Jude W. Hamilton, the merchant just across the street from Mr. James P. Dixon's house. As a matter of fact, the little house had been erected in 1835. It was a little mite of a thing; not more than fifteen or eighteen feet across the front and perhaps twenty feet running backward to include the little kitchen built on its north side. Another house which in 1836 had been built was the one built in 1835 by James Wilson for a blacksmith shop and which has been more particularly described in that portion of this work appportioned to the courts held early in the county while we were a part of Ogle county. Another log building, afterwards covered with siding, was located on the southwest corner of River and Crawford streets. It was built by a Doctor Forrest, who was the original claimant of the subsequent Woodford farm up the river on the north side. Subsequently Smith Gilbraith lived in it and one of the old settlers made the statement that when he reached Dixon, he handed over all the money he possessed, \$300, to Smith Gilbraith to keep for him, because the house was the only one that had a cellar, and cellars those days were considered impregnable. Later this house became a saloon named "The Hole in the Wall."

One Colonel Johnson kept boarders or private tavern in a log building built on the southeast corner of Galena avenue and River street where the Eli Baker building stands today.

Such were the physical proportions of Dixon in the autumn of 1836, not a very healthy six-year old!

At the same time the census showed the following residents of Dixon: James P. Dixon, Peter McKenney, Samuel Johnson, Jude W. Hamilton, James B. Barr and Edwin W. Hine. These gentlemen had families here with them. The remainder of the census, unmarried were, Dr. Oliver Everett, Smith Gilbraith, James Wilson, Daniel B. McKenney, who was a member of Peter McKenney's family. On farms immediately contiguous there lived Stephen Fuller, Caleb Tallmadge, E. W. Covell, John Dixon and George A. Marshall.

There was not merchandising enough in those days to make it profitable. Tavern keeping was the most lucrative business of the early days and that accounts for the seemingly large number of taverns which were to be found in the very newest settlements, and for that matter, all along the great thoroughfares like the Chicago road.

The first hotel built in Dixon was the Western, already mentioned. It was opened in the winter of 1836-7 by Peter McKenney and Horace Thompson and that same old hostelry stands today, on Hennepin avenue, next south of Beier's bakery. Subsequently it became known as the Mansion House, the Revere House and half a dozen other names.

Over on what now is known as Adelheid Park, a townsite was platted called Burlington, and for a time it contained as many or more houses than Dixon. Stephen Fuller lived there when first he came to the country. In 1836 it still had three log houses, so that it will be seen that while the movement of people to a common center was slow, townsite speculators were active and very wide awake for the future.

Two very important things happened in Dixon in the year 1834, for Dixon: the name of the postoffice was changed from Ogee's Ferry to Dixon's Ferry and the Government surveyed what then was called Dixon township.

But to return to the year 1836; the six families for a little while were reduced to four by the removal of two of them. Caleb Tallmadge lived on the Peoria road, a mile south of town, E. W. Covell and George A. Martin lived on claims on the north side of the river, Joseph Crawford lived on his claim in the bend of the river from the day he landed in Dixon in the year 1835. And, too, the year 1836 was the year Stephen Fuller was living in Bur-

lington. While Thompson and McKenney operated the Western, they also managed the old tavern in the Dixon mansion.

Considerable mystery has been allowed to accumulate around the location of the old Phenix House, which in the early day was built here. In the year 1837 the old Rock River House was built on River street, about fifty feet west of the southwest corner of Galena avenue and River street. It was run first by Crowell and Wilson, then by George Holly and Isaac Robinson; afterwards in 1846 it was destroyed by fire.

About the year 1840 followed the famous old Dixon House, built on First street at the southeast corner of the alley between Galena and Hennepin avenues. This was built by Henry McKenney, father of Uriah McKenney of this city, and was run as the Dixon House until about the year 1855, possibly 1857, when it was moved around to the spot occupied at this time by the E. J. Countryman store on the west side of Galena avenue. There it remained as a hotel, run under many names until it was torn down by the purchaser, I. B. Countryman, who built the present Countryman store there.

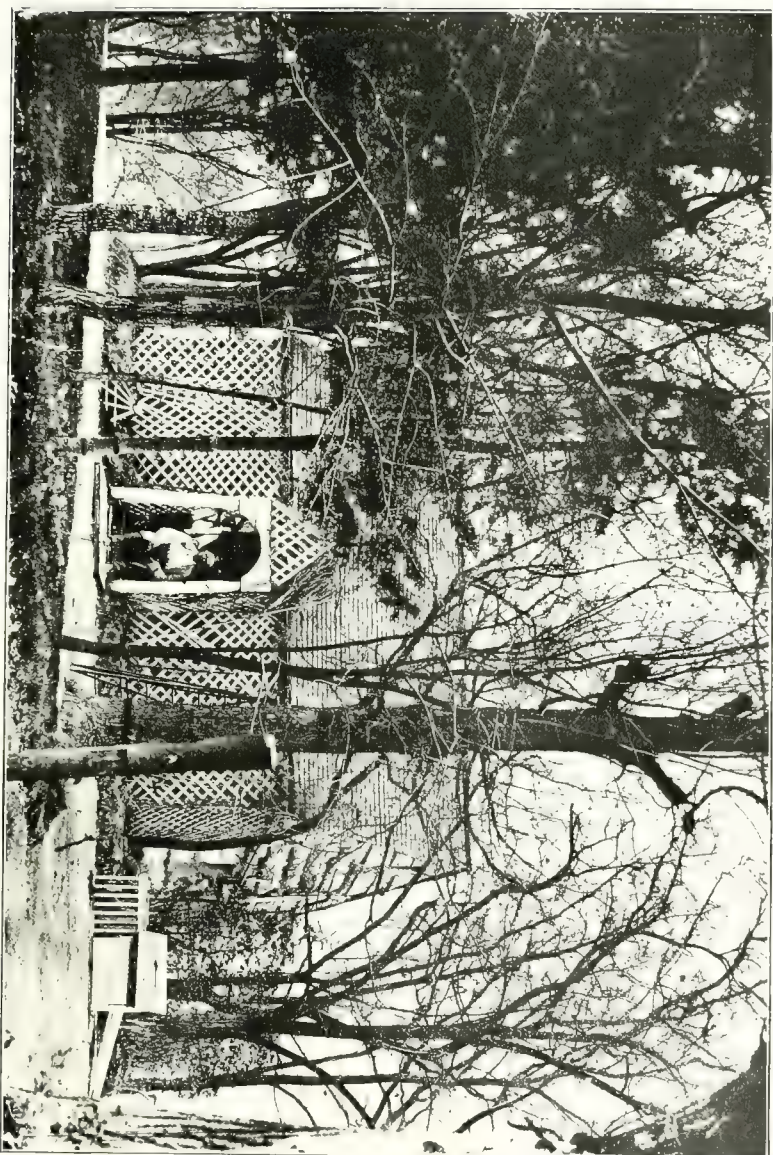
In the year 1837 the first dry goods store was opened by Samuel M. Bowman & Co., on the southwest corner of River and Galena. This firm continued in business there until the winter of 1839-40 when Joseph T. Little and S. G. D. Howard opened the second dry goods store in the building. Bowman, by the bye, made the first temperance speech in Polo which ever was delivered in this part of the country.

On River street, a Frenchman named Calmeze, kept a grocery store in 1838-9, from which he sold candles of unusual length, and which, according to tradition, contained whiskey. This building was located east of the corner of Galena avenue and subsequently was occupied by Elias Bovey as his lumber office, and has been referred to as The Hole in the Wall.

In 1837 the number of families in Dixon had increased to thirteen and Dixon considered herself a very likely place. In the year 1843, when incorporation was desired, Dixon had forty-four voters, every one of whom cast his vote in favor of incorporation. By the year 1845, the place had a population of 400.

The year 1840 was a great year for Dixon. Through the instrumentality of Mr. Dixon, the land office was removed from Galena to Dixon. The removal was the sensation of the state. In 1838 Father Dixon had been appointed Commissioner of Internal Improvements, a great honor, and from his appoint-





GOVERNOR CHARTERS' LOG CABIN AT HAZELWOOD  
From a photograph made about 1860



ment he was presumed to carry considerable weight in Illinois politics, but to secure the removal of the land office seemed incredible for a long time.

At that time Colonel John Dement was receiver of the land office, and with the removal to Dixon of his office he was compelled to come along. This year was an important one in securing Colonel Dement; just as important a factor in the life of the town as the land office. Indeed, if the removal brought Dement here, it did a vast amount for Dixon. For fifty years the name of Colonel John Dement was most powerful. Active in politics always, he commanded a vast amount of influence, and that influence always was exerted first for the interests of Dixon before he permitted himself to consider his own interests.

At this point it may well be said that the name Dixonville, applied sometimes to this place, was so applied without any license whatsoever. The postoffice was named Dixon's Ferry, then Dixon. Many men of learning, notably United States Senator Young, addressed letters to Father Dixon at Dixonville, but the superscriptions always contained the real name of the postoffice. The name Dixonville came to be used a little because certain map men, hearing the name, applied by rumor to the place, immediately placed it on their maps. I have the various maps which contained this name. Naturally, frequent reference to the maps gave the observer the false idea that this place was named Dixonville, but after a little while the map men learned their mistake and corrected it in all future maps.

Attracted by reports of the beauties of Rock River, a number of persons of cultivated tastes, of leisure, refinement and considerable property, closed out their holdings in the eastern states and migrated to Dixon. The number included, too, others, who had been affected by the terrible panic of 1837. Among the number were the Grahams, the Charters, the Lawrences, the Roundys, the Zimmermanns, the Reardons, the Strongs, John Shillaber and many others. These people were all people of rare education. Some had considerable means and they surrounded themselves with almost feudal establishments. All were lavish entertainers. Some had been army officers, some had been sea captains. Probably the best known was Governor Alexander Charters, a rare old Irish gentleman, originally from County Antrim, Ireland.

Along in other pages of this book the important features of Dixon's history have been related. The details of unimportant

daily events should have no place in history, yet to satisfy the grub, some of them must be picked up and mentioned.

In 1840 the population of Lee county was 2,035. Dixon precinct had 725; 125 persons in the latter were farmers, 17 in merchandising, 55 in manufacturing, sawmills principally; 12 professional men and one school with 30 pupils.

November 6, 1845, Friendship Lodge, A. F. & A. M., No. 7, was chartered by the Kentucky grand lodge. The first officers were Samuel Johnson, W. M.; E. G. Nichols, S. W.; W. A. Merritt, J. W.; John Arnam, treas.; S. A. Martin, secy.; M. P. Kerr, S. D.; Alvin Humphrey, J. D.

In 1845 the population of Lee had increased to 3,282. Dixon had six lawyers, four church societies, one church building, one select and one district school with combined attendance of sixty pupils. There were 149 school children under twenty years old; three physicians, five dry goods and three grocery stores, four blacksmith shops, three wagon shops, three tailors, two shoemakers, one painter, two cabinet makers, two saddle and harness shops, one bakery, two hotels, one the old Western, kept by Aaron L. Porter, and the Phenix, on River street. There also was a young men's lyceum. The population of Dixon was 400. In 1846 the first big fire swept away the store of Stiles and Eddy, on the southwest corner of Galena and River streets, and the Phenix Hotel, just a little to the west, were burned.

In the autumn of 1846 Dixon's first brick block was built in Dixon; two stores of two stories and attic were built on the north side of First street, where today it stands adjoining the Union block on the west. James and Horace Benjamin built the west one and A. T. Murphy the east one.

In the attic of the Murphy building the first Odd Fellows' lodge was organized and its meetings were held there for a long while. Until stairs were built later, a ladder was used to reach the rooms.

The first corporation to be organized in Lee county was "The Dixon Hotel Company" in 1837. The names of the incorporators will be found in the following letter from Secretary of State Woods; its objects as well:

July 19, 1913.

Frank E. Stevens, Dixon, Ill.

Dear Sir:—In answer to your inquiry without date just received, you are advised that "DIXON HOTEL COMPANY"



was incorporated by special Act of the Legislature in 1837. The law is to be found on page 242 of the "Private Laws of 1837."

The names of the incorporators and powers granted are set forth in the following sections:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the people of the State of Illinois, represented in the General Assembly, That John Atchison, James Evans, Charles S. Boyd, Wm. C. Bostick, Charles Chapman, John Dixon, Smith Gilbraith, James P. Dixon, L. S. Huff, John Brown, and Samuel Johnson, their associates and successors, be and they are hereby constituted a body politic and corporate, under the name of the "Dixon Hotel Company," to be located in the town of Dixon, Ogle county; and by that name shall have power to contract and be contracted with, and may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, in all courts having competent jurisdiction, and shall be vested with all the powers and privileges necessary to the object of their incorporation, as are hereinafter defined and limited.

Sec. 2. The said company shall have power and be capable of holding, purchasing, improving, selling, and conveying any estate, real or personal, for the use of said corporation; second, to improve or erect buildings on the same; third, to rent, lease, or occupy any or all such lands belonging to said company for a term not exceeding the limits of this charter; Provided, That the real estate, owned by said company, shall not exceed one quarter section of land, except such as may be held as collateral security for debts due said company, or may become the property thereof by virtue of such indebtedness.

A certified copy of this Act will cost \$2.50.

Yours truly,

Harry Woods,

Secretary of State.

Nearly all the names are familiar to Dixon people. I cannot see where this corporation had any lawful right to issue money, yet it will be seen that Nicholas Biddle of the famous United States Bank received money in bits from it. An illustration of one of the pieces which came into the editor's possession is reproduced in this book.

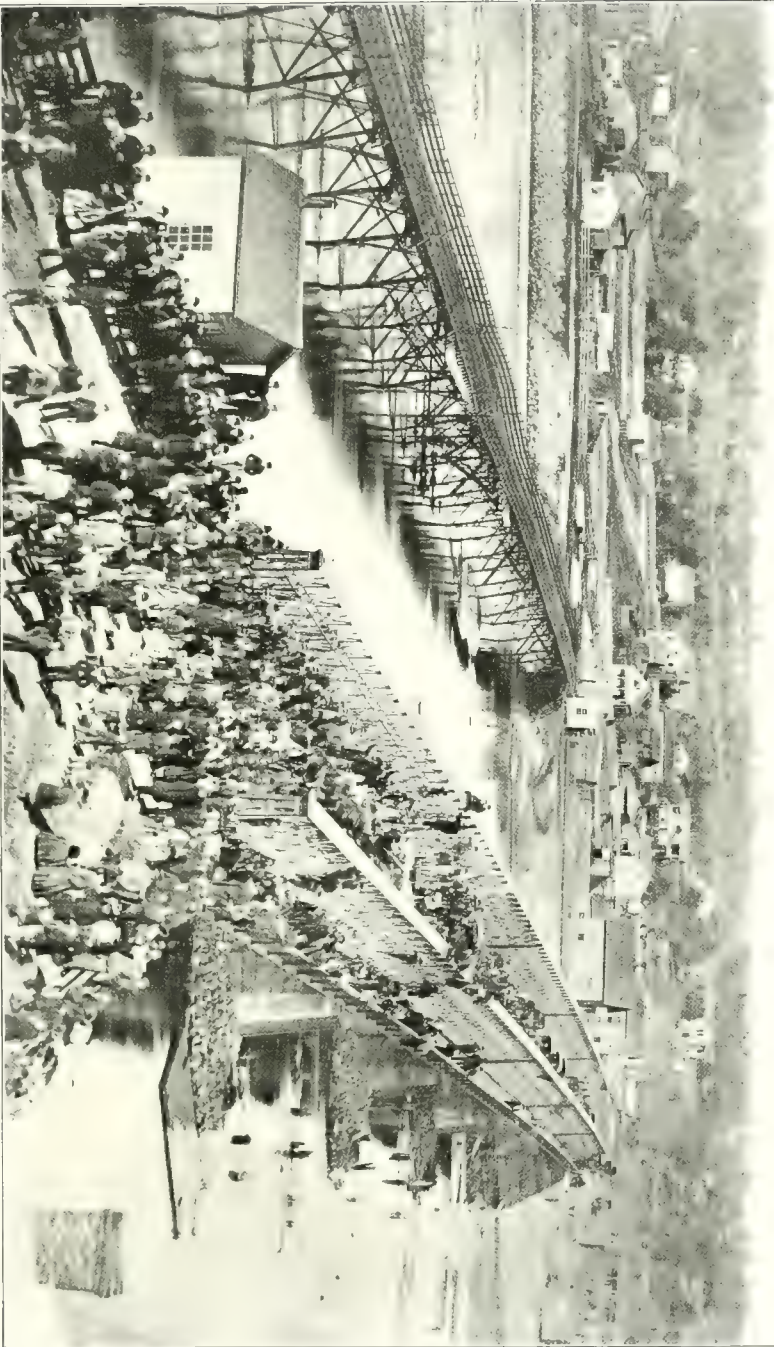
The panic of 1837 killed it, probably. It would be very interesting to know just how this money came to be issued.

The foundation was laid for the Dixon Hotel on ground, substantially, where the Nachusa House stands today.

And while engaged in picking odds and ends, it may be well to introduce, at this point, a list of all of Dixon's postmasters. No correct list ever before has been presented:

Ogee's Ferry—John M. Gay (Est.), May 25, 1829; name changed, No. 23, 1833. Dixon's Ferry—John Dixon, Nov. 23, 1833; Smith Gilbraith, Oct. 17, 1837; James P. Dixon, May 18, 1841; name changed, Aug. 29, 1843. Dixon—James McKenney, Aug. 29, 1843; Abram Brown, Feb. 14, 1845; David H. Birdsall, April 1, 1846; Anderson T. Murphy, Sept. 19, 1849; Joseph H. Cleaver, Dec. 1, 1852; Eli B. Baker, Sept. 6, 1854; James L. Camp, April 2, 1861; Mary A. Camp, Dec. 20, 1883; James B. Charters, April 5, 1887; Benj. F. Shaw, Dec. 23, 1891; Michael Maloney, Jan. 23, 1896; Benj. F. Shaw, Jan. 29, 1900; Wm. L. Frye, Dec. 20, 1909.

In August, 1849, manufacturing interests were reaching out and we find a petition made to the county commissioners' court asking for a jury to settle on damages to lands upstream to result from the proposed building of a dam across Rock river. This was the first proposal to harness the river. In the fall of 1846 and winter of '47 a tall bridge was built across Rock river on Ottawa street. The March 20th freshet of 1847 took out the north half. During the summer Lorenzo Wood and Luther I. Towner contracted for \$2,000 to rebuild the bridge two feet higher than before; and they did. The directors of this Rock River Bridge and Dam Company were John Dement, Oliver Everett, John Dixon, Michael Fellows, Otis A. Eddy, J. B. Brooks, James P. Dixon and Horace Preston. In the spring of 1849 the ice took out the south half of the bridge. Once more the bridge was rebuilt and in 1855 it was taken out again by the ice. Immediately another was proposed and it was built by Contractor Zachariah Luckey on Galena street. In 1857 the two north spans of the bridge went out and in 1867 more damage was done by ice. March 7, 1868, the entire bridge was taken out by ice and the two south spans of the Illinois Central Railroad bridge were swept away by ice. A temporary frame bridge was built and Jan. 21, 1859, the beautiful Truesdell iron bridge was dedicated. On Sunday forenoon at just about the hour the churches had been closed after morning service, there occurred in Dixon a most fearful tragedy. While loaded with people witnessing a public baptism in the river, on its north bank and to the west of the bridge, this Truesdell bridge collapsed and killed outright Miss Katie Sterling, Miss Melissa Wilhelm, Miss Margaret O'Brien,



THE DIXON (TUESDALE) BRIDGE, ON THE DAY OF ITS DEDICATION

It fell May 4, 1873, killing 43 persons





Miss Nettie Hill, Miss Ida Vann, Miss Ida Drew, Miss Agnes Nixon, Miss Bessie Rayne, Miss Irene Baker, Miss Emily Deming, Miss Lizzie MacKay, Miss Millie Hoffman; Mrs. J. W. Latta, Mrs. H. T. Noble, Mrs. Benjamin Gilman, Mrs. W. W. Tooke, Mrs. Carpenter, Mrs. James Goble, Mrs. Elias Hope, Mrs. E. Wallace, Mrs. E. Petersberger and daughter, Allie, Mrs. Thomas Wade, Mrs. Henry Sillman, Mrs. William Merriman, Mrs. C. W. Kentner, two children of Mrs. Hendricks, Misses Clara and Rosa Stackpole, George W. Kent, Frank Hamilton, Edward Doyle, Thomas Haley, Robert Dyke, Jay R. Mason. Those who died very soon from wounds sustained were Mrs. Philip M. Alexander, Mrs. William Vann, Mrs. Charles March and Mrs. W. Wilcox.

A wooden Howe truss bridge was built at a cost of \$18,000 and the present iron affair succeeded that.

On July 27, 1848, Dixon Lodge, I. O. O. F., was organized in the attic of the Murphy building, and it is one of the many prosperous lodges in the city. I have thought many times that Dixon was "lodged" to death. The Elks, however, seem to be so strongly intrenched in the affections of the members that no rivalry can reduce its membership, now nearly 500. A club house costing \$35,000 has been built of brick on the old Doctor Everett lot, the northeast corner of Second street and Ottawa avenue.

The Knights of Columbus is the youngest lodge; it has a very large membership, and so does the Woodmen lodge.

When the year 1850 is reached, we find the population of Lee county to have increased to 5,289. On Feb. 19, 1849, the Legislature had provided us with a township organization law and in 1850 Paw Paw or Wyoming, Brooklyn, Harmon, Lee Center, Bradford, Fremont (now China), Amboy, Hamilton, Dixon and Palmyra had been organized.

On May 1, 1851, The Dixon Telegraph and Lee County Herald, the first printed paper in Lee county, appeared. Charles R. Fisk was the publisher, Benjamin F. Shaw was the editor and James C. Mead, Henry K. Strong and John Moore were compositors. Off and on for varying periods, Mr. Shaw was with the paper until his death, and the same Telegraph, under the ownership and management of Mrs. E. E. Shaw and the editorship of George Shaw, a grandson, is issued today, daily and semi-weekly. A great many papers have come and gone since that far away date; suffice it to say, we have today The Telegraph,

The Daily News, both republican; The Weekly Citizen, democratic; and but lately, The Daily Leader, a progressive paper, has acquired a plant and very soon will issue a daily.

In 1854 the cholera swept over the county and took from this community thirty-four between June 20 and August 7.

During this period lots in Dixon were selling at fabulous figures. A first-class boom was doing its work. A telegraph office had been established and real railroads were promised. In 1859 a city charter was adopted.

On Jan. 10, 1836, the Galena & Chicago Union Railroad Company was incorporated. To secure money the first meeting was held in Rockford Nov. 28, 1845. Then it was the design to run from Chicago to Galena. In September, 1847, the engineers were put to work, and the eastern part of the new road was run along the Chicago and Dixon road to the Des Plaines. Strap rails were used between Elgin and Chicago. December 15, 1848, the road was finished to the Des Plaines, ten miles.

The Pioneer had been purchased March 5, 1849. On Sept. 1, 1853, forty-five miles of the Dixon & Iowa Central had been built. On Dec. 4, 1854, the Dixon Air Line had been built into Dixon, sixty-eight miles from Turner Junction. At approximately the same time the Illinois Central was built into Dixon. In 1880 this road forwarded 3,668 cars and received 1,208. Its ticket sales were \$33,170.10. For the year just past over \$100,000 were collected here for passenger tickets and over \$400,000 for freight charges; the best record on the road. The freight collections show in the year an increase of \$100,000 for the year.

#### MANUFACTURING

It would be insufferably tedious to go back and insert the many little items which showed our efforts to build up manufacturing plants. Col. John Dement, one of the most enterprising men Dixon ever had, began in the early '50s the manufacture of plows. He also joined Moses Jerome in the manufacture of flax bagging and until Congress removed the tariff on jute hundreds of boys and girls were given employment by the flax mills. Maj. O. J. Downing was the pioneer in flax bagging, entering a partnership with Jerome as Jerome & Downing; then the firm became Jerome & Dement and then John Dement. Henry D. Dement and Jacob Spielman opened another on the north side

of the race. Wood Brothers operated for a long time a woolen mill and then a flouring mill. The mills of Becker & Underwood turned out flour that sold from coast to coast, but an explosion put them out of business two or three times, the last time forever. William Uhl was an old-time miller, too.

Now we have no flouring mills, but over on the north side, in Swissville, we have the greatest milk factory in the world, owned by the Bordens. This splendid plant was built by George H. Page in 1888 for the Anglo-Swiss condensed milk factory. He built the best plant in the world then, fully expecting to return to his boyhood home to spend the rest of his life; but pneumonia took him off and later when the two big companies made their trades of certain interests, this plant went to the Bordens. Condensed milk and candy are made here for the general trade. Ralph W. Church is superintendent. Two hundred and fifty people are employed here. The milk of 5,500 cows is consumed every day and the amount of money paid out approximately in Dixon every year is \$400,000. Thirty thousand tin boxes are used to box this product. From three to four million pounds of caramels are shipped annually. The Central Machine Shops here make all the machinery for all other plants and the Central Can Shops make all the cans for the other shops.

The cement plant occupies the biggest place in our affairs. W. E. Wuerth is the superintendent and there is not a single ingredient or a single cogwheel needed in the manufacture of his product but he knows all about it the instant his attention is called to the same. It is reported that he is the best cement man in the world, and in all his vast plant, if called upon to go in the dark to repair a break, he can do it. The name of this concern is the Sandusky Portland Cement Co. (of Sandusky, Ohio). I believe the Medusa brand is the specialty of this plant. About 300 men are kept working here all the time. The plant runs twenty-four hours per day and 365 days in the year. During the past year 1,730 cars of coal were burned, which will approximate 86,000 tons. Four thousand nine hundred and forty cars of products were shipped last year to Iowa, Dakota, Wisconsin and Minnesota. But most of it goes to Illinois. To give an idea of the enormous business which this great concern does, let me state that it paid our two railroads last year the enormous sum of \$89,000 for freight on coal alone. The total coal bill was \$165,000. The annual pay roll is \$310,000. In 1906 the company started to build. In the fall of 1907 it started its



furnaces. For the large tract of land owned by the company \$300 per acre was paid. It lies along the east bank of Rock river and only a few days ago Fuller's Cave, known far and wide, was blasted. To load the stone upon trains, five steam shovels, monsters, are used and five locomotives are used to pull those trains;—all outside work.

The buildings occupy at least 1,000 feet square of ground. They are the most modern in the world. During the year past the company increased its capacity 25 per cent and its output more. Another vast expenditure is for plaster. Over 5,000 tons per year are used at a cost of \$13,000. It is a beautiful sight at night, when the dozen or more stacks are spouting fire. Asked if the company had enough rock in sight to feed such vast appetites, Mr. Wuertth gave the assurance, "for five hundred years."

But recently the Brown Shoe Company has taken over the old Henderson plant and they are increasing their force all the time.

The old Grand Detour Plow Company, organized in 1837, is one of the reliable institutions of Dixon. Col. W. B. Brinton, the president, runs summer and winter and during many of the years of drought that plow company was the only thing in Dixon besides the milk and cement plants that gave any employment to labor.

Four years ago Dixon began to mend. Something like a dozen beautiful brick buildings were erected. The present year the Dixon National Bank is finishing its beautiful five-story pressed brick building. In March they expect to occupy it.

The greatest prize that ever came to Dixon, however, was the location recently of the State Colony for Epileptics, which the Board of Administration located on the north side of Rock river, beginning with the F. E. Stevens tract upstream and coming down to include the A. C. Warner tract. The first expenditure is to be \$1,500,000. For this piece of rare good fortune we may thank our present mayor, Col. W. B. Brinton. On Thursday night, February 19, 1914, a banquet was tendered him in the Elks club by over five hundred citizens and friends. The beautiful homes of Dixon have been sung in story ever since 1837, when William Cullen Bryant came over to visit Gov. Charters. Space cannot be spared to enumerate them. But the beauty spot of all beautiful Rock river was the river front tract just obtained by the State and how fortunate it is that the poor sufferers may enjoy the brightest charms nature ever gave to man.



## THE CHURCHES

The Baptist church was legally organized Jan. 13, 1841, and here may as well follow the short church sketches.

The nature of this work compels me to send to each locality a statement of each of the churches in Lee county.

The history of the progress of the Lee county religious bodies is interesting. The earliest settlers of the county held strong religious convictions and it needed but the presence of the church and the pulpit to attract them to church services, many times at tremendous sacrifices. Ministers of the Gospel in the early day received almost nothing for their services, yet it was expected of them to support themselves and the family.

When Peter Cartwright received fifty dollars for his second year's stated salary, he remarked that he considered he had made quite a rise in the world. If percentages were used to form an infallible judgment on the question of salary raises, then Mr. Cartwright got an enormous raise, one hundred per cent. But when considered from fact instead of figure, he only received a raise of \$25, as \$25 was his first year's emolument for the first year of Illinois service.

The early preachers came and went; they were on the move all the time. In fair and in foul weather, it was all the same; they traveled the circuit, sometimes on foot, sometimes on horseback. Sometimes they had food and shelter and more times they had not, yet in the face of hardships almost unendurable those pioneer men of God pushed forward with an enthusiasm almost inconceivable at this distance.

Sometimes exposure prostrated them with long sicknesses and instances like the one noticed in Lee Center are remembered where death cruelly snatched them away, in a strange land, far from friends and family; so very far that it was found impossible to secure the presence of relatives at the funeral. Hardship but increased the fervor of those men. At first it was the custom for two or more communities to group themselves together, as for instance the first religious services for Dixon were held at Buffalo Grove by residents of Dixon's Ferry and Buffalo Grove. By resolution adopted at the first meeting, held in Buffalo Grove May 28, 1838, the name of this first church was named "The Regular Baptist Church of Dixon and Buffalo Grove."

At that meeting, Elder Thomas Powell was chosen moderator and Howland H. Bicknell was chosen clerk pro tem. Those who formed themselves into that church society were Rebecca Dixon, Sarah Kellogg, Elizabeth Bellows, Martha Parks, Jerusha Hammond, Ann Carley and H. H. Bicknell. Sixteen articles of faith were submitted and adopted and Mr. Bicknell was appointed clerk of the church. Rev. Thomas Powell preached for the church, holding meetings in Dixon and Buffalo Grove until May, 1840, and during that time he baptized about fifty members. On June 28, 1840, Barton B. Carpenter was appointed clerk, caused by removal of Bicknell, and on the same day he was presented to the church by a council consisting of Elders Powell of Vermillionville, Headly of Greenfield and B. Carpenter of Lyndon, and Brethren Andrew Moffatt of Greenfield, Zenas Aplington of Buffalo Grove, John W. Dixon and Elizabeth Dixon, both of Dixon, for ordination. He was examined, approved and ordained, and requested to serve the church as pastor, commencing his labors from the first of May. He served this congregation until its separation into two distinct bodies, Dixon and Buffalo Grove, by mutual consent on April 16, 1842. On the separation, Mr. Carpenter continued to serve the Dixon church as pastor. By 1841, Dixon having gained on Buffalo Grove very rapidly, on Jan. 13, 1841, the Dixon church had become known as the "First Baptist Church of Dixon." The last surviving member of the original church was Mrs. Martha Parks of Palmyra township, who died Sept. 2, 1898.

The Baptist church in Dixon is a prosperous congregation in Dixon today, but in Buffalo Grove it disintegrated about 1848 or 1850.

Early pastors occupying the pulpit have been, first of course, Mr. Carpenter, June, 1840, to October, 1844; Barton Carpenter, from December, 1844, to March, 1845; William Gates occupied the pulpit occasionally and William Walker about four months between March, 1844, and April, 1847, when E. T. Manning became pastor for a year; S. S. Martin became pastor in 1849 for a year; G. W. Benton supplied the pulpit for about six months between Martin's pastorate and August, 1851, when John E. Ball became pastor for about four years; Anson Tucker took charge in May, 1855, and served eleven months; W. R. Webb followed in June, 1856, and served over four years; William G. Pratt followed in March, 1861, for a year; W. S. Goodnow followed in September, 1862, for two years; J. H. Pratt became pastor in October, 1864.

and served over nine years. D. F. Carnahan followed in August, 1874, and O. P. Bestor in August, 1877.

The first record of a Baptist church building is May 5, 1849: "The Baptist Meeting House was this day dedicated to Almighty God; sermon by Rev. Jacob Knall, of Rockford."

This building stood on the west side of Ottawa avenue, facing east, between First street and the alley running through the block. It was used by the Baptists until 1870, when the new and present structure on Second street was built and dedicated.

In the summer of 1845 a correspondent, writing for a Rockford paper, made the statement that at that time there were four congregations in Dixon, Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal and Congregational, and one church structure, that of the Methodists. In the summer of 1843 this first Methodist church building was dedicated by Rev. John T. Mitchell, presiding elder. Its cost was \$4,000 and the board of trustees were O. F. Ayres, J. P. Dixon, C. Edson, L. G. Wynkoop, Thomas McCabe, J. Brierton and Samuel M. Bowman.

The building is standing to this day upon its original site on Second street between Galena and Ottawa avenues, and is occupied as the residence of Dr. Marian White.

For many years after the Methodists had moved to their second church building on Peoria avenue, the old first church building was used as the high and grammar schools, the high school above and the grammar school in the basement.

Soon after the dedication of this Methodist church in 1843, a Union Sunday school was organized in the church, July 15, 1843, which had a membership of eight teachers and sixty scholars. A library of ninety volumes was collected. Of this Sunday school O. F. Ayres was superintendent, Thaddeus D. Boardman was secretary and J. W. Clute was librarian.

During the year 1854 the second church building was begun and work was carried forward on the same until it was finished.

The first parsonage, 24x30, brick, was built on Third street not far from the then Illinois Central depot.

The original cost of the second church was \$15,000. When finished in 1857 it was dedicated by Bishop Bowman. In 1870, '71 and '76 improvements were made costing \$2,700.

Among the old-time clergymen have been in the order named, Robert Dunlap, Barton Cartwright, Isaac Pool, Riley Hill, Luke Hitchcock, Richard Blanchard and Philo Judson. In 1842, Aug. 3d, Melugin's Grove and Inlet were added to the Dixon circuit.

which already embraced Washington Grove, Light House Point, Jefferson Grove, Daysville and Paine's Point. Philo Judson and W. H. Cooley were appointed circuit riders. Then came W. Wileox, David Brooks, S. P. Keys, Milton Haney, R. W. H. Brent, R. P. Lawton, William Palmer, Thomas North, James Baune, J. W. Agard, Wilbur McKaig, N. P. Heath, L. A. Sanford, S. G. Lathrop, O. B. Thayer, W. H. Smith, G. L. S. Stubb, T. C. Clenning, George E. Strowbridge, J. H. Brown, John Williamson, Isaac Linebarger, G. R. Van Horne and A. W. Patton. Rev. F. D. Stone is the present pastor.

A Unitarian church or society was organized in 1850. In 1855 through the efforts of Judge John V. Eustace, Dr. Oliver Everett, George L. Herriek and the pastor, Rev. Kelsey, built a handsome frame building in 1855. The congregation did not grow and very soon the building was torn down.

On Sept. 29, 1854, the Congregationalists organized a church society in Exchange Hall. There were the following members: Mr. and Mrs. S. K. Upham, G. W. Bartlett, B. J. Bartlett, Noah Brooks, George D. Cox, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Gilman and Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Curtis. Rev. S. D. Peet was the first minister and remained until April, 1855. Others who served were D. Temple and H. Hesley. B. D. Gay, S. K. Upham and Benjamin Gilman were deacons. The congregation worshiped in Exchange Hall until 1856, when they removed to a brick church abandoned by the Methodists when the latter occupied their new church building. The Congregational Society did not survive long, disbanding in 1858, when most of its members joined the Presbyterian church.

In the year 1854 the Catholic church was organized in Dixon by Father Mark Antony, with about twenty-five members. For the first few months church services were held in the courthouse, but later in the same year in the first church, a frame building, still standing on Fifth street. The pastors in this church, beginning with Father Antony, have been Fathers Fitzgerald, Tierney, Ford, Dr. Lightner, Kennedy, McDermott, Thomas P. Hodnott. Rev. Michael Foley is the present priest and Father Donohue is the assistant.

The present beautiful church building was built in the year 1872-3 and was dedicated in the latter year.

Later the building was damaged badly by fire, but in the same year it was rebuilt.



From the congregation of twenty-five of the year 1854, St. Patrick's church, Dixon, under the spiritual guidance of Father Michael Foley, has grown to be by far the largest congregation in Lee county.

This new building, built on Seventh street on a lot donated by John Reilly, cost over thirty thousand dollars. The bell, weighing 2,500 pounds, cost \$900.

St. Paul's Lutheran church of Dixon was organized August 20, 1848. Rev. J. H. Burket was the first pastor and the first meeting was held in his barn in Dixon township. The following is the roll of pastors and their term of service to date:

\*Revs. J. H. Burket, 1848 to 1850; \*Ephraim Miller, D. D., 1850 to 1852; \*Charles Young, 1852 to 1853; \*William Uhl, 1853 to 1855 and 1856 to 1858; \*David Harbaugh, 1855 to 1856; \*J. L. Guard, 1858 to 1861; \*J. R. Keiser, 1862 to 1865; \*A. A. Trimper, 1865 to 1870; N. W. Lilly, 1870 to 1874; S. S. Waltz, D. D., 1874 to 1879; L. L. Lipe, 1879 to 1885; \*J. M. Ruthrauff, D. D., 1885 to 1895; T. F. Dornblaser, D. D., 1895 to 1903; W. L. Rutherford, 1904 to 1910; Frank D. Altman, D. D., 1910.—

The first church was built in 1855 during the pastorate of Rev. Wm. Uhl.

The second church was erected on present location in 1868 under Pastor Rev. A. A. Trimper, and dedicated in January, 1869. The cost of the building was about fifteen thousand dollars.

The present parsonage was erected in 1876, during the ministry of Rev. S. S. Waltz, D. D. Improvements were made to the church building in 1898 under the direction of Rev. T. F. Dornblaser, D. D., pastor. The semi-centennial jubilee was held December 16-19, 1898. The Sixteenth Biennial Convention of the Woman's Home and Foreign Missionary Society of the General Synod in the United States was held in the church May 25-28, 1909.

The present confirmed membership is 635. The enrollment of the Sunday school the past year (1913) including Home Department and Cradle Roll was 580. Total contributions of the church for all objects during the year over four thousand seven hundred dollars. The business affairs of the congregation are administered by a church council of ten men elected by the membership.

Dixon is indebted enormously to the Lutherans for buying the old farm along Rock river always conceded to be the most

beautiful of all our scenic spots. This they converted into a Chautauqua or assembly grounds which Dr. Altman has told about herewith. I have included it with our church life.

ROCK RIVER ASSEMBLY.

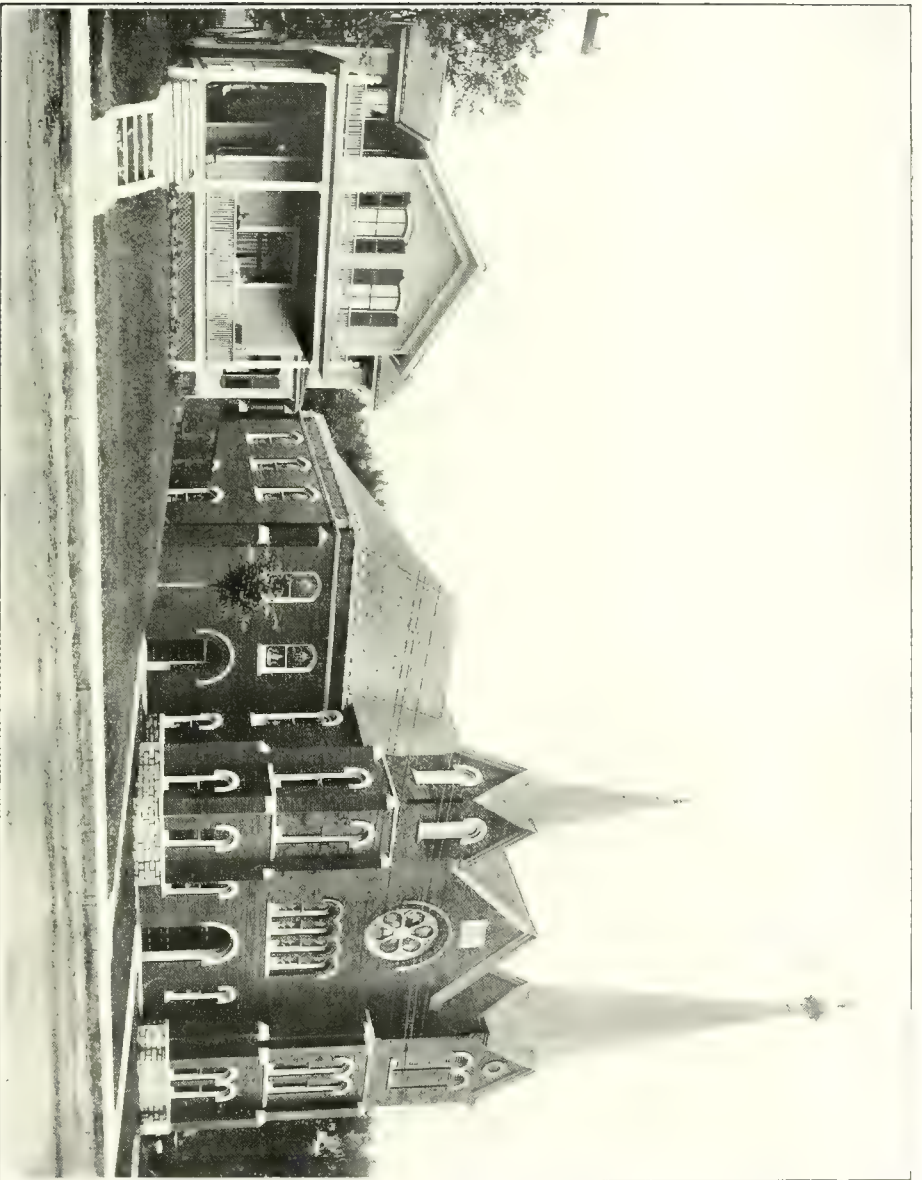
By Rev. F. D. Altman.

This institution had its beginning in the summer of 1887 at an annual picnic of Lutherans at Hazelwood, about three miles northeast of Dixon. Rev. J. M. Ruthrauff, at that time pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Dixon, may properly be termed the father of the movement which has developed into the present annual Rock River Assembly.

With the cooperation of others on this territory a stock company was formed. Capital stock of \$10,000 was subscribed in shares of \$25.00 each, and in 1890 a charter was secured from the state. Later the capital stock was increased to \$20,000. Three-fourths of the shares must be held by members of, or persons affiliating with the Lutheran Church. The management of the association is vested in a board of nine directors elected by the stockholders at the annual meeting. The object of the Assembly corporation is to maintain and conduct annually on the premises of the assembly a Chautauqua, consisting more particularly of lectures, concerts, Bible conferences, round tables, religious services, and such other entertainments and exercises for the mental, moral and spiritual improvement of the community, also to afford proper recreation and other advantages for its people. It is not for financial profit. Its officers and board of directors serve without compensation, and any excess of receipts above expenses is used in making improvements upon the grounds and keeping up the standard of the talent employed.

A beautiful tract of land containing about forty acres was secured. The location is along the north bank of Rock river adjoining the city of Dixon on the east. Here the river banks are high and extend in a great retiring curve for half a mile. For camping purposes the grounds are ideal. Nature has done its best in furnishing an attractive and restful place. The singing of birds lends enchantment to the scene, while families of squirrels frolic fearlessly about the walks and drives and upon the branches overhead.

But the superiority of Rock River Assembly is in its programs. For over a quarter of a century it has won a unique place



ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, DIXON





in the number of interesting and essential features presented. Some of the most famous lecturers and singers and characters of America and other lands across the sea have appeared on the assembly platform. The aim of the management has been to bring within the vision and hearing of the people of this part of the state, the best talent along different lines that could be procured within reasonable limitations.

The effort has been appreciated, and the assembly has developed beyond all expectations until it has become a permanent institution of the city of Dixon. Thousands come every year to enjoy the splendid programs rendered and have an outing in nature's quiet and refreshing abode. Improvements have been made gradually and extensively. On these grounds are a large circular auditorium capable of seating 5,000 persons, numerous school and administration buildings and comfortable cottages; the Assembly Hotel, on the river front, with magnificent view, good accommodations at moderate expense. Electric lights are installed throughout the premises. Electric cars bring the visitors to the gates. An abundant water supply, furnished in sanitary perfection from artesian wells, is distributed upon the grounds for public use. The outdoor sports, boating, tennis, croquet, base ball, fishing, swimming, can be enjoyed to the extent of one's capacity. For sixteen days each year, beginning the last Saturday in July, the assembly affords a rich feast of good things for the people, the best which education, art and science have to offer. Rock River Assembly probably ranks third among the Chautauquas of America. The following are the members of the board of directors at this time, 1914: A. E. Thummel, president; Theo. Trough, vice-president; H. M. Rasch, secretary; W. E. Trein, treasurer; A. A. Krape, C. E. Derr, A. L. Geisenheimer, Geo. W. Bruner, F. D. Altman.

#### SAINT LUKE'S CHURCH, DIXON.

By Rev. A. B. Whitecombe.

The first services in Dixon were held by Right Reverend Philander Chase, D. D., Bishop of Illinois in 1837, soon after his consecration. He had made a visit to Grand Detour, at that time a prosperous village, and finding a few people at what was then called Dixon's Ferry he stopped over for a service. Soon after a

priest, the Reverend James De Pui, was settled here, but just when he came or when he went away are uncertain dates.

In 1845 Rev. Abraham J. Warner was appointed missionary at Grand Detour and parts adjacent. He held regular services in Dixon, Sterling, Elkhorn Grove and other places.

From 1851 to 1858 the services were held by missionaries generally located at Grand Detour, whose names cannot be ascertained.

In 1858 a parish organization was effected by the election of the following wardens and vestrymen. A small frame church was erected on Peoria avenue, near Third street. In 1871 the new stone church was built, and consecrated on October 18, 1872. The rectors of the church have been as follows: The Reverends John Wilkinson, Abraham J. Warner, George C. Street, James W. Coe, H. H. De Garbo, D. W. Dresser, D. D., William A. Williams, Marison Byllesby, Samuel Edson, W. Henry Jones, William W. Steele, John Wilkinson, Henry C. Granger, John C. Sage, John M. Ericsson, Albert B. Whitcombe.

## CHAPTER XXIII

### EAST GROVE TOWNSHIP

Hamilton's immediate neighbor to the east, was nearer the Peoria trail, and so was much sooner settled. In the thirties David Welty, while building his log house just over the line in Marion, lived in East Grove. When set off in 1865, Fenwick Anderson was elected first supervisor.

In 1836 "Squire" Charles Falvey purchased a claim from one William T. Wells, and the next year he moved upon it, the north  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 34, in a grove, from which the township derived its name. Over in Marion, six miles away, lived his nearest neighbor, a Mr. Robinson, who in 1839, sold his claim to David Welty. Mr. Falvey lived right there until the day of his death, with brief exceptions when he stepped over into Bureau county to lands he owned there. In 1832 he enlisted in the company of Thomas Carlin, later Governor, and served in the Black Hawk war.

And right here appears probably the most interesting character in Lee county's history, Joseph Smith, "Dad Joe," as he was called familiarly. Dad had a voice like a fog horn and it was said of him that people thirty miles away knew when it was 4 o'clock in the morning because they could hear Dad Joe calling up his cattle.

In 1833 he settled in the grove bearing the name Dad Joe's grove just into Bureau county, to the southwest of East Grove, some three miles. Under the older boundaries, he was about the same distance into Jo Daviess county. He too was a Black Hawk war veteran, serving as spy under Col. Zachary Taylor. H. W. Bogardus too was a very prominent old settler.

Fenwick Anderson was another old settler. From Canadaigua, New York, he migrated to Dixon in 1844. There he remained until 1849. In that year he moved down to East Grove and settled on the south  $\frac{1}{2}$  of section 34. He purchased his claim from Robert

Tait, who had been a workman for John Deere in his plow shops at Grand DeTour for many years. The rude log house on this place was the stage house for years on the old Galena, Dixon, Peoria road. In 1852 Fenwick Anderson, with S. P. McIntosh, put up a kiln of 200,000 brick in the south part of the grove, which when burned proved to be a first class article and from them he built his residence in 1853. This experiment may be said to constitute the whole range of manufacturing effort in East Grove township, although it may be asked why it was not continued when such excellent results were secured.

Thomas Shehan came to Bureau county in 1844 and moved to section 35 in the year 1849, having bought a claim from John Kasbier.

S. P. McIntosh came up from Alton, Illinois, to attend the Dixon land sales and in the course of his visit he bought the east  $\frac{1}{2}$  of 36. But he did not move here until the year 1856.

John Downey, A. A. Spooner, John Flynn, M. Coleman, A. Barlow, D. Sullivan, Henry Hubbell and Simon Tubbs settled soon afterwards.

East Grove has been the scene of more than one tragedy and it furnished a Lee county grand jury with the first murder for which an indictment was returned.

John W. Harrison, in 1842, was a deputy sheriff from Toronto, Canada. While on a visit to this country he was murdered by James S. Bell, on a spot near the northwest corner of section 35. David Welty, justice of the peace, bound Bell over to the grand jury and the fellow was taken to Dixon and lodged in jail.

Sept. 13, 1842, the indictment was returned into court. Motions to quash the indictment and to continue the case were made by counsel and were denied by Judge Thomas C. Browne and on a motion for a change of venue the case was sent to Whiteside county. There he was tried and convicted of manslaughter and sent to the Alton penitentiary. After serving a part of his sentence he escaped and never afterwards was heard from.

And right here is met the most dramatic criminal episode ever enacted in Lee county. In the portions of this book relating to the old trails, the Cleveland turnpike will be recalled. It was built over the creek on section 3 in East Grove township.

A peddler had been robbed by the banditti of the prairie and murdered.

Croft's house was the end of the turnpike and was the toll house. It was situated in a lonesome God-forsaken place. Title



to it came to Charles Croft from the heirs of a Mr. Millard, who in turn bought the pike and toll house from Cleaveland. Croft came into possession before the year 1849. Subsequent to the murder of the peddler, strange persons visited the toll house and held many conferences with Croft. Living with Croft was a hired girl named Montgomery, aged about fifteen.

Shortly afterwards the young girl went home to visit her mother at Dad Joe's Grove and to her she expressed her fears and refused to return. As a reason, she said she feared for her life, to remain. But she was persuaded to return and did return.

Shortly afterwards this Charles Croft who was reputed to be a member of the banditti came to one Hyra Axtell, and the two came "to my house inquiring if I had seen or heard anything of Croft's hired girl. Her name was Silena Montgomery, aged about fifteen years. Neither myself nor family could give any tidings, not having seen or heard of her for some time. Croft claimed that she had disappeared without saying anything to the family of her intention of going away, and what had become of her was a mystery. Axtell took an opportunity to communicate with me, unobserved by Croft, and said he believed there was something wrong in the matter, and that the neighborhood should be informed and a search made. I agreeing with this suggestion, we accompanied Croft to his house (being connected with the toll gate on the south end of the turnpike) and went with him about the premises. There were three men mowing not far from the house, Eli Shaw, and the names of the other two I cannot remember, except that the first name of one was Dennis. There was also in their company one Samuel Perkins, usually called 'Sam Patch,' having a rifle with him. After being there some time and having conversation with them in various phases, Axtell and myself became more fully convinced that a misdemeanor had been committed. We concluded to go in different directions and inform the mother of the missing girl, who resided in Dad Joe's Grove, or in that vicinity, and the neighborhood generally. He went west and south and I north and east, and by night nearly a hundred people had gathered. We searched that night through the woods and grass and the next day until noon, and finally Croft's house. Croft had stated that the girl had taken all her clothes with her. While searching the second story, we discovered that one of the ceiling boards had marks of having been moved and replaced. We took off the board and found the best clothes of the missing girl, and under them implements for making counterfeit half dollars. These incidents strengthened the con-

victions of foul play. A consultation of the crowd was had, and two (W. B. Stuart and James Blainsen), were deputed to go to Dixon for a boat with which to explore Green river. There was an element of the credulous who sent two, Samuel Meek, Jr., and Patrick McFadden, to consult a fortune teller. The search was continued while these committees were gone but without success. The committees returned; the one with a boat and Nathaniel G. H. Morrill, the owner, and the other reporting that the fortune teller said a murder had been committed, and five persons were implicated; that the one who had committed the overt act had neither boots on nor was barefooted; that he was ragged and wore a straw hat; that the law would never be enforced against any of them, and yet the public would be satisfied that they were the ones who were concerned in the matter. Perkins wore moccasins and otherwise answered the description of the first one spoken of. The search went on. This N. G. H. Morrill was peculiarly well adapted for working in business like this. About this time Stuart and Blair, each with a party of men, went to their respective homes for dinner, and when Blair arrived his wife informed him that Perkins had been there during the forenoon looking pale and haggard, and inquired of her if they had dragged the lower bayou. She told him she did not know, and he went away hurriedly. Blair deemed this important tidings, hurried through his dinner and came to Stuart's with the information, and on consultation a complaint was made and a warrant was issued by Squire Stuart for the arrest of Perkins, and it was placed in the hands of Constable Willard and Richard Meek. Previous to this Perkins had been living in a shanty in the grove, about half way between Croft's and the bayou. On the search being instituted, he removed his family and effects to his father-in-law's, Reuben Bridgeman, a little north of the present limits of the city of Amboy. The constable, with his assistants, proceeded to Mr. Bridgeman's and were informed by him that Perkins had taken his rifle only a short time before and gone into the cornfield (of about thirty acres) to hunt chickens.

"More assistants were procured, and the cornfield was surrounded. By this time it was about 10 o'clock at night, with a bright moon. The family of Mr. Bridgeman's were in bed except Perkins' wife. The old gentleman got up and stated that Perkins had not yet returned since going into the cornfield in the afternoon. He pointed to a cottonwood tree, which he said was in the direction Perkins had taken; that a little before sunset they had heard the report of a gun which they supposed was a shot at a

prairie chicken. Constable Willard, with Richard Meek, James Keeling, W. B. Stuart and F. R. Dutcher, went in the direction of the tree, and a few rods before reaching the tree they found Perkins lying on his back, dead. Notice was given to those around the field, and a crowd was soon there. Perkins was still grasping his gun with both hands, and the toe of his moccasined foot was in the guard on the trigger, the muzzle on his breast. A portion of his skull was found nearly a rod from his body, the inside powder burnt. The coroner, Solomon Parker, was sent for, who summoned a jury of inquest. They investigated the case and reported the following verdict: 'The undersigned, being duly summoned and qualified by the coroner of Lee county, as a jury of inquest on the dead body of Samuel Perkins, found dead in the cornfield near Reuben Bridgeman's, believe the said Perkins came to his death by shooting himself with a rifle gun, through the head. (Signed) Jesse Hale, Francis H. Northway, Joseph Farwell, William M. Hopkins, Samuel Bixby, Elisha Palmer, John C. Church, Ira P. Hale, John Skinner, R. P. Treadwell. Inlet Precinct, August 3, 1849.' Meanwhile the search for the missing girl had been going on. This Mr. Morrill adopted the plan of going down the stream to where it loses itself as to having a channel, by spreading over the swamp, and by wading upward, thoroughly searching every part. It was a dry time and the water was quite low. This plan was followed, and when the mouth of the little bayou (as the coroner termed it in his report) was nearly reached, the body was found. The upper part of the face was bruised as though struck with some heavy substance, and some insist that a bullet hole was in the forehead. The excitement ran high; the male portion of the country for a dozen miles or more in every direction had come out. Coroner Parker was among the number and at once impaneled a jury of inquest, who took possession of the body and held their inquest. The following witnesses were examined as the records show: Drs. J. B. Gregory, of Dixon, and Harmon Wasson of Amboy, as physicians; Samuel Meek, Sr., Eli Shaw, John Koons, Hyra Axtell, N. G. H. Morrill, Richard Meeks, T. L. Dennis, Charles Croft, Sally Perkins, Catherine Shaw and Lyman Hubbard. After the examination closed, the following verdict was rendered: 'We the undersigned, having been summoned and sworn to hold a jury of inquest on the dead body of Silena Montgomery, found dead in Inlet Creek, in Winnebago precinct, Lee county, and state of Illinois, and having attended to their duty by a faithful examination of the said body, and by an examination of



witnesses in the case and all diligent inquiry they have been able to institute, do report their verdict to be, that the said Silena Montgomery came to her death by violence, and that one Samuel Perkins, late of Lee county, was the immediate agent in procuring her death, as we verily believe. (Signed) George E. Haskell, foreman; Joseph Gardner, Sabin Trowbridge, I. Means, Alva Hale, L. D. Wasson, Lewis Clapp, Cyrus Williams, Philip Mowry, Joseph Lewis, Ozias Wheeler, and B. F. Brandon. Winnebago precinct, August 4, 1849.'

"The circumstances surrounding led to the conclusion that Croft, Eli Shaw, and the two others that were found mowing hay for Croft at the commencement of the search, were implicated in the affair. Warrants were issued, and W. B. Stuart and ——— Curtis were deputed to arrest Croft and Shaw. They, with Hyra Axtell, started, and on the way, near Samuel Meek's, they found a team and lumber wagon, and in it lay Eli Shaw, dead. One report is that he died from strychnine and whiskey, and that it was found that he had purchased some of the former at Dixon, of Doctor Gregory, on that day. From the records in Dixon, it is found that a coroner's inquest was not held until March 1, 1850. As his death occurred so long before this he was probably buried and exhumed when the inquest was held. The verdict was as follows: 'Verdict of the coroner's jury, impaneled to ascertain how and in what manner the body of Eli Shaw came to its death. We, the jury in said case, do find that Eli Shaw came to his death from causes to the jury unknown. Dixon, March 1, 1850. (Signed) John Dement, foreman; A. L. Porter, A. H. Eddy, I. Means, N. F. Porter, J. W. Davis, J. M. Cropsey, C. A. Smith, John V. Eustace, Thomas H. Ayres, Cyrus Williams, N. G. H. Morrill.' After leaving the body of Shaw in the care of Meeks, the three before mentioned went on to Croft's house, arriving there at a late hour of the night. Near the door they found a horse and spring wagon and a trunk in the wagon. Croft was about ready to go away. Through a rift in the window curtain they saw him load one pistol and lay it upon the table near him and take up another and commence to load it. At this juncture the door was burst open, the loaded pistol and Croft grabbed at the same time, and Croft duly ironed by the arresting party. The trunk was taken from the wagon, Croft placed in it, and Stuart hurriedly drove to Dixon and delivered the prisoner to the jailer. Croft's wife and her brother, John Bryant, were in the house at the time of the arrest but did not attempt to interfere. The remaining two implicated ones left the vicinity, but were heard



of at Peoria, and the officers having the warrants for their arrest proceeded there, found and took them in charge. They were ironed and placed upon a steamer for Peru, there to take the stage for Dixon. Not long after leaving Peoria, the prisoners, having the privilege of walking about the boat, watched their opportunity and simultaneously threw themselves overboard and were drowned, the irons upon them facilitating to make an effectual taking off in this way. Of the five implicated, only Croft now remained alive. He remained in jail, having been indicted by the grand jury Aug. 23, 1849, and the case continued to the next term. His wife visited him occasionally, and a few days before the term and shortly after one of these visits the jailor, calling at the cell, found Croft with his throat cut, and life extinct; a razor lay by with which the deed was done. The next day, a coroner's inquest was held, which resulted in the following verdict: 'Upon the view of the body of Charles Croft, now lying dead in the jail of Lee county, at Dixon, Illinois, we the jury of inquest duly impaneled and sworn diligently to inquire, and a true presentment make, how, in what manner, and by whom or what, the body of the said Charles Croft, which here lies dead, came to his death, do find that the said Charles Croft came to his death by cutting his own throat with a razor, on the afternoon of the 22d of November, A. D. 1849, while confined in the jail of Lee county. (Signed) William W. Heaton, foreman; Charles Dement, E. W. Hine, J. B. Brooks, James Benjamin, A. M. Pratt, R. B. Loveland, James Campbell, Horace Preston, E. B. Blackman, Gilbert Messer, Elias B. Stiles. Dixon, Lee County, Illinois, November 23, 1849.' The theory generally held in relation to this matter, which caused the murder of the girl Salina, is as follows: Croft's premises was considered a rendezvous of the banditti of the prairie of those times. Croft owned the turnpike across the Winnebago swamps and kept the toll gate at the south end, it being near the center of section 3, of East Grove. Several individuals had been known to pass over the turnpike from the north and were not heard of afterwards, especially a peddler, who had formerly frequented those parts, and it is supposed this hired girl knew so much of the workings of this banditti, that they concluded it was not safe for her to live and as 'dead men tell no tales,' they murdered her. Croft planned the mode of the proceeding, Perkins was guilty of the overt act, and the other three helped to secrete the body. So all were, as principals or accessories, participants in the matter." (From the papers of the late William B Andruss).

The conclusion of this series of fearful tragedies is best related by the late Mrs. Grace Everett Johnson, daughter of Dr. Oliver Everett, who lived on the corner opposite, to the north. The jail at that time was located upon the southeast corner of Second street and Ottawa avenue. Across the street to the north, where the present Elks clubhouse has been built, was the location of the old Everett home.

“The county jail in those days was in the northwest corner of the lot now owned by Mr. George Steel, and just across the street from our house. When Croft, one of the men who committed those terrible murders on Green river in the early days, cut his throat with a razor accommodately supplied him by his wife, the sheriff rushed over for my father. When he got there he at once saw that nothing could be done to save the man’s life, and, indeed, it was but a few minutes until he breathed his last, thus closing another chapter in that terrible record of crime.”

The manner of supplying the razor was as follows: The wife had been permitted to visit him at the jail many times. At last just before his trial was to be called, she baked the razor in a loaf of bread and with it the wretch cut his throat.

In some places the name has been spelled Crofts; in others, Croft, but by far the best authorities spell it Croft.

It will be noticed too that the girl’s given name is spelled in two ways. I would think the one used in the verdicts was right.

## CHAPTER XXIV

### HAMILTON TOWNSHIP

Hamilton is comparatively new in the matter of history, for the very good reason that for a long period, most of it was under water. Winnebago swamp covered it until a general system of drainage brought the land into a state of cultivation.

I may say just a word here to the effect that for years at first, Winnebago swamp was applied to both the very large swamps which lay in Lee county. After settlements grew, however, the eastern portion was called Inlet and the western portion was still called Winnebago. Inlet creek or Green river connects them. Between, for a distance of six or eight miles, the land was not submerged. In fact the city of Amboy lies midway between them.

For a long while all that territory now embraced within the township of East Grove, May, Hamilton and the south half of Marion, was called Hamilton. Later, East Grove and Hamilton were thrown together and known as Hamilton. Until Lee county was organized, this territory was a part of old Inlet.

In 1856 May was organized; in 1859 Marion was organized and in 1865 East Grove was organized and taken from Hamilton. Since that date, Hamilton has remained six miles square; a government township.

The earliest history of Hamilton has not been preserved and dates at first will be found but seldom.

Either Charles or Ross Freeman, brothers, was the first man to build a house in Hamilton. He built on the south half of section 32, but the date is not known. Subsequently this house was moved to another location and converted into a schoolhouse.

Jacob Pope, a German, was the first man to build a house and make a home, and he built on the southeast of 26 in 1854. Morris Logue from New Jersey came in 1854. David and John Knight

from Ohio came in 1854. David Griggs, another Ohio man, settled there in 1857. J. F. McMurray, a Pennsylvanian, arrived there in the spring of 1857. In 1856 Amos T. Keigwin bought the northwest of 27 and in 1858 built a house thereon. He came from Windham, Connecticut. In 1858 E. D. Carpenter built for Amos Stone, a house on the northeast of 26. J. Shields bought and moved upon land in 13 and 24, in 1858. William Scully settled on the northwest of 24 in 1858. Michael Dunn settled on 24 in 1859. Bennett Havens came about the same time. L. B. Moore and M. Fleming came in the early sixties.

By reference to the old maps it will be noticed that the Rev. N. C. Collins was a conspicuous figure in Hamilton lands. He bought swamp land heavily and held it for many years. He lived in LaMoille at the time.

All of the above named settlers moved into the township from the south and settled on the south side of the swamp. The north side remained vacant for some time longer, evidencing the oft repeated story that the settlers worked outward from the highways and even then ventured but slowly because of the fear of the prairies. In such a town as Hamilton, which not only was treeless, but covered with water, it should cause no surprise at its lateness of settlement.

On the north side of the swamp Arold T. Anderson, of Polo, opened up a farm on section 7. William Rink of Dixon was the first to break up land on the north side of the town. He owned part of section 3. The first settler there was John D. Shafer, a bachelor. He built a cabin on section 8 and herded vast numbers of cattle over the unoccupied lands. That was a favorite spot for people from far and near to send their cattle to be pastured for the summer. From as far as Dixon stock was sent down there.

James Durr settled on the northwest of 19 in 1862.

William B. Stuart served Hamilton as its first supervisor. R. B. Viele succeeded him. In 1855 Stuart was elected again.

Though slow to settle, Hamilton was alive to its needs from the start. Mrs. Cornelia Mayona, daughter of A. T. Keigwin taught the first school of the township in a room in the house of what later became the David Griggs house. Miss Lizzie Larkins and Miss Lavina Swisher followed. When McMurray moved back into Bureau county, his abandoned house was converted into a school-house and Mrs. Mayona taught there. Up until the fall of 1863 teachers were paid by subscription. Then district number one was formed and the next spring a building was bought from Ross Free-



man on section 32 and moved over on section 34. This was used until 1874 when a new school building was built on section 35. District number two was organized at the same time as number one and Miss Lydia Havens taught the first school in a part of Thaddeus May's dwelling. In 1864 the first schoolhouse was built in the southeast corner of section 25. Afterwards it was moved to the southwest corner.

In the early day the settler generally took his gun out on Sundays. Game was more than abundant. It was almost a nuisance. Water fowl almost clouded the skies when in flight over the swamps of Hamilton. Large flocks of ducks, geese, sand hill cranes, snipe and plover might be had almost with a sling shot. For years Hamilton was the sportman's paradise.

Meeting houses were not well attended in consequence. One was started over in Bureau county just over the line, in the Dodge schoolhouse. In order to interest the Hamilton people in church matters, several men took the matter in hand. They were David Griggs, William Griggs, Solomon Welch, J. F. McMurray, Johnson Griggs and J. H. Knight, who contributed the salary of Reverend Ford, a neighbor, who consented to preach. And pray, what do you think he was paid per Sunday for preaching? Fifty cents! Yet he succeeded in getting together a congregation. Prof. I. B. Dodge led the singing with his violin. Many of the congregation were not devout at all times. But the services were attended regularly and they had a beneficial influence on the community.

Religious services later were held irregularly at the homes of A. T. Keigwin, John H. Sayers and Ezekiel Sayers.

The Hamilton of today is a township of wealth. Only a few days ago one solid section of land sold for \$100 per acre. That was a rare bargain.



## CHAPTER XXV

### HARMON TOWNSHIP

Like other towns far removed from the old highways or stage lines, Harmon was one of the newer towns in point of settlement.

John D. Rosbrook is said to have been the first settler in this township. He bought a tract of land in the eastern part of the township, subdued it and very soon other settlers followed. But Mr. Rosbrook had few neighbors for a very long time.

In 1853, with three sons, he came from Niagara county, New York, and settled at the "Lake," a clear body of water covering something like forty acres of land. The following spring the two other sons came out. George Rosbrook held the plow that broke the first sod in Harmon township. Pretty soon Mrs. Robert Tuttle brought her family from Knox county and settled in Harmon. Mr. Tuttle, who had come from New Hampshire, settled in Knox county. He had been a lumberman, and desiring to obtain employment in the forests of the North, he started to walk northward. At Dixon he was taken very sick. A man named Henry Stores drove down to Knox county and brought Mrs. Tuttle back to Dixon just in time to see her husband before he died. She was a sister of Mitchell Rosbrook and very soon she with her five children located in Harmon and built a good house. This was in 1854. Very soon she opened a private school in her house; Miss Vienna Tuttle taught, and many a good old-fashioned dance was given in the early days by that same estimable lady, Mrs. Tuttle.

Ox teams were used to break the sod. Fortunately sod crops prospered with the new settlers so that no especial hardships were encountered.

In the early days of the country snakes were very plentiful and to some of Harmon's early settlers it seemed as though there were many more in that township than in any other town in the county.

Rattlesnakes especially were a source of great annoyance. Blue racers would crawl over on the sod to bask in the sun and remain until the ox team came along to frighten them away. The blue racer many times grew excessively familiar. So much so that he would wind himself around the ankles of the plowboys and frighten them half to death.

In 1854 Thomas Sutton and his large family came to Harmon and settled a mile south of the lake. It is said of Sutton that there were nineteen children in his family and often he lamented because there were not an even twenty.

In 1854 Mitchell Rosbrook came to Lee county from New Hampshire with his family of wife and six children and two years later settled in Harmon. This devout gentleman founded the first Sunday school in Harmon township. It was held in the granary of John D. Rosbrook. This same Mitchell Rosbrook built the first house erected on Mount Washington in the White Mountains.

Lewis Hullinger, John L. Porter and James Porter, Jr., came along soon after. The first two elections were held at the house of Mitchell Rosbrook.

In 1856-57 Austin Balch with his wife and two children moved into the township. So did Joseph Julien, C. H. Seifkin, Israel Perkins, George Stillings, Henry and Louis Isles.

At this first election just mentioned, James McManus was elected supervisor; Mitchell Rosbrook, town clerk and George Stillings, constable.

Bogs, swamps and impassable sloughs bothered the Harmon people fearfully in the early day; more perhaps than almost any other people, and the stories of miring down and the difficulties encountered in dropping into the mud, taking off the load and then taking the wagon apart to get it ashore, would baffle the autoist of today.

Game abounded in the township during its infancy to such an extent that to repeat some of the stories related of hunters would set down the person telling the story today, as an extravagant liar; yet those stories were true.

Mr. C. J. Rosbrook is the reliable authority for the statement that Charles K. Shellhamer shot one hundred geese down there in one day—a wagon box full. A hunter from Dixon, named Kipp who will be remembered by some of us older people, shot and killed thirty-six mallard ducks with one shot. Five deer out of a gang of thirteen were killed by a party of hunters. Cattle herding in Harmon was done on a scale as large as in Hamilton. Harmon too



seemed to be in the line of cattle drives and Mr. Rosbrook has told us of one band of five thousand Texas cattle passing through Harmon on the way to the Chicago market.

He also has told of us once seeing a colony of sandhill cranes not far away which covered nearly one thousand acres. Game was that plentiful.

When Alonzo Kinyon projected his road from Rock Falls through Lee county, it was graded through Harmon.

Lewis Hullinger, who came to the township in 1855, was supervisor at about the time the railroad demanded the issuance of bonds in consideration of the building through the township. Amboy, Brooklyn and Wyoming had voted the bonds and issued them. They litigated their legality, but ultimately the bonds had to be paid. Not so with Lewis Hullinger. He opposed the bond scheme and the issuance of any bonds and Harmon was spared the liability which nearly bankrupted Amboy, Wyoming and Brooklyn, largely through the pertinacious fight put up by Lewis Hullinger.

But the Harmon of today is a splendid body of land. Large sums of money have been spent to drain the land, and while some portions of the Harmon lands are sandy, the great majority is black loam, rich, and great crops are raised. As a grain market Harmon keeps pretty well in the lead. I doubt if there is more than one other town in the county which ships more grain than Harmon—something like six hundred thousand bushels last year, by the Neola and the other elevators.

D. D. Considine does an enormous business in general merchandising. Thomas P. Long also does an enormous business in agricultural implements. W. H. Kugler and Frank Kugler each enjoy a fine general trade. Harmon has a bank, of which Mr. W. H. Kugler owns controlling interest.

The Harmon schools long have been noted for their efficiency. The building is a beautiful brick. H. J. Durr also runs a nice hardware business.

Harmon has one of the best plants for fire protection and domestic use in Lee county. A very modern standpipe produces a force sufficient to throw four streams over the tallest building. It is also forced into various homes and business blocks in the village.

At present, Harmon has a population of 350. It is located on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad.

It was through Harmon that the big tornado crossed before devastating so many homes further east. But in Harmon not a

bit of damage was done. Of course not many people dwelt in this township then; but those who remember, say the storm had lost control of its force while crossing Harmon.

Recently, the Northwestern Railroad in reaching Peoria, entered Harmon township, but no station has been established in this township along the line of the road.

Harmon early learned the benefits of hard roads and now, year by year, her people are spending considerable sums for macadam for her muddy roads. The rural schools of Harmon township number six, I believe, and I am told that they rank just as high as the splendid village schools. County superintendents tell me that Harmon for years has had the best of schools and that the children rank high in all their examinations. Only a few months ago, St. Flannen's Catholic church burned down. Nothing was saved. Yet with commendable perseverance, the congregation went to work and in less than three months arrangements had been perfected and the funds had been provided to build the present beautiful new church and parsonage. Church work in Harmon and Marion takes front rank among the towns of Lee county. The new church and parsonage were dedicated last fall.

## CHAPTER XXVI

### LEE CENTER TOWNSHIP

Seldom indeed, does one meet in fact or in fiction a spot around which so much and such intense dramatic interest has centered.

In the field of human activities, Lee Center township has witnessed scenes ranging from the very highest social and intellectual refinement and culture, as well as the sweetest religious privileges, down to revolting crimes and a veritable reign of terror.

Inlet, the first settlement of Lee Center township, in section 9, on the banks of Inlet creek, was the rendezvous of thieves, counterfeitters, fence-men and even murderers.

The house of one was made a common hiding place for stolen property. On the broad highway of the great state road, men came and left by night. Strange horsemen would alight; their horses would remain tethered in the deep grove near by, until the small hours of the morning, when as if by magic, horses and riders would disappear. The noise of loud voices would be heard, and behind those doors plans were concocted for all manner of crime from the stealing of peddlers' packs to their last crime, the murder of Colonel Davenport, July 4, 1845.

Did a settler at Inlet own a fine team, the circumstance was learned in Nauvoo, a favorite retreat, very soon, and very presently the settler's team disappeared. Did the settler remonstrate, a letter attached to a stone was thrown at night, through a window, to the effect that any further demonstrations by the settler would be followed by a hasty exit of the settler, dead or alive, from the settlement.

The ravages of this banditti of the prairie extended from Ohio and Kentucky to Iowa, Missouri and Wisconsin. Inlet being a central and well known point, and favored by nature as well as by a small number of the first settlers, it early became a rendezvous of

its members. Of those who at last resolved to take their lives in their hands and make the attempt to rid Inlet of their presence, were Sherman Shaw, Charles F. Ingalls, Rev. Luke Hitchcock, Dr. R. F. Adams, Moses Crombie, Lewis Clapp, Benjamin Whittaker, a Mr. Starks and his sons, and through their heroic efforts Inlet was cleansed. Those sturdy pioneers of Lee Center township sent to the penitentiary at Alton, Joseph Sawyer, Adolphus Bliss and Daniel Miller Dewey, and the witness who squealed, Charles West, so soon as he had delivered his testimony, left the country for his country's good. This drastic action was not taken so soon as the vigilance committees from Ogle, DeKalb and Winnebago, when in 1841, they shot the Driscolls; but the very instant the evidence was secured, that minute the Inlet branch of the banditti was dealt its death blow.

The heroic bravery required of that Lee Center Vigilance Committee cannot be comprehended fully today, surrounded as we are by the highest safeguards of civilization. The Haskell robbery in June, 1844, and its extraordinary success, emboldened the thieves to the point of careless bravado, and in that moment of weakness the opening wedge was secured by which a conviction was made possible.

Dewey "got up the sight" for the Haskell performance and Fox and Birch did the work; Fox on the inside of the Haskell house and Birch on the outside. Bonney in his "Banditti of the Prairie," page 14, second edition, mentions the matter thus:

"West accused one Fox, alias Sutton, and John Baker of having committed the robbery at Troy Grove, and said that most of the goods had been secreted at Inlet Grove, and subsequently taken to Iowa. He also avowed that Fox and Birch, alias Becker, alias Harris, committed the robbery for which Bliss and Dewey were sent to prison, and that the former was totally innocent, while the latter was accessory, having 'got up the sight.' He further stated, that Fox had robbed one Hascal, a merchant at Inlet, by entering the house during a very severe thunder storm, and crawling upon the floor till he reached the trunk, wherein was deposited the money, and having secured it, left without being heard, although Mr. and Mrs. Hascal were lying in the bed *awake*, at the time. To prove this, Fox subsequently stated the conversation that had passed between them while he was in the act of rifling the trunk!" P. 14, 2d ed. 1881.

The trunk was taken to the blacksmith shop and there opened and rifled.



The operations of the banditti at Inlet contributed materially towards the establishment, in 1846, of the village of Lee Center, further to the northwest, on the Chicago road. Of course, rivalry and "feeling" had their influences, but the presence of such evil doers contributed most. Luke Hitchcock denominated Inlet, "A perfect Sodom."

Adolphus Bliss, the first settler, who came in 1834, was followed by Joseph Sawyer, Daniel Miller Dewey and Charles West, in 1836. With the opportunities afforded by the stage road for making a little ready money by keeping tavern, Sawyer took out the first license to keep a tavern ever issued in Ogle county and Bliss took out the second. They were issued by the county commissioners of Ogle county while in session at the house of F. Cushman, Buffalo Grove, March 6, 1837, and each paid therefor the sum of ten dollars. A schedule of charges they were permitted to make, will be found in that part of this work which treats of Ogle county.

Bliss called his tavern The Travelers Home. The sign, a rough board, was lettered irregularly, and nailed to the long log cabin. In order to boom the same he proceeded very much after the fashion of the present day town site people. On the next day, March 7, 1837, he and others presented a petition to the commissioners asking that viewers be appointed to view for a road, a route past The Travelers Home. He deposited the sum of five dollars to pay the viewers expenses, which according to the rules of the day, was to be returned to him in case the road was located according to the prayer of the petition. If not, it was to be used to pay the expenses of the commissioners. Those commissioners were John Dixon, Corydon R. Dewey and Zachariah Melugin and they reported unfavorably to the proposed road.

On the 6th of March, 1837, at that same meeting, Inlet was set off as an election precinct and so far as its political independence was concerned, that day was the beginning of Inlet.

The judges appointed for the precinct were Zachariah Melugin, Thomas Dexter and the subsequently notorious Charles West.

Inlet took in a vast territory as must be noticed by the distance these commissioners lived one from the other. It was bounded on the north by Dixon, Grand Detour and Oregon City precincts; on the east by the county line and on the south and west by the "lines of said county." The house of Corydon R. Dewey was made the polling place. At the same meeting an election was called for Dixon and Inlet, the only voting precincts in what now is Lee county, to be held April 12th, following, at which justices and

constables were to be elected. Now, notice with what care the interests of the gang were conserved. Daniel Miller Dewey was elected justice and Charles West was elected constable, each receiving seventeen votes. Quoting from an old Ogle county history we are told, "Justice Dewey, Constable West, Adolphus Bliss (of the old Travelers Home), his wife, Hannah, and a few others of their gang, because of their 'close' connection and secret and suspicious ways of transacting public and private business, came to be known to the pioneers as 'Bliss, Dewey, West & Co.' "

If Dewey issued a writ against a member of the gang, Constable West never was able to find the offender. But he always provided himself with a very large supply of information as to the point in Iowa, Wisconsin or Indiana the culprit had fled.

The killing of the Driscolls on Monday, June 28, 1841, was supposed by thinking men to be sufficient evidence of the determination by the settlers to rid the country of the banditti and to awe the other members of it. But that action only subdued certain of the Ogle county members. Other robberies continued with shocking frequency. On the night of Sept. 18, 1843, the store of William McKenney, of Rockford, was robbed of a trunk containing between seven hundred and eight hundred dollars. Scarcely had the excitement over this enormity subsided when a four-horse mail coach of the Frink and Walker line, about four miles out of Rockford on its way to Chicago, was robbed. The coach was full of passengers at the time and in full motion, yet the loss of the trunks and baggage was not discovered until the coach had reached Newburgh. Next morning the trunks and baggage were discovered, near the road, broken open and their valuable contents gone. It was a daring and a skillful robbery, but not more so than the one perpetrated a few weeks later, in which the house of William Mulford was entered.

It had been rumored that Mulford had received \$15,000 from New York. That report soon reached the Inlet and other members of the band. Mulford lived in Guilford township, Winnebago county. Part of the gang stood over Mr. and Mrs. Mulford, while others searched the house and found \$400 which they carried away. Of course the countryside was aflame with indignation; but so well did the thieves cover their tracks that for the moment, they escaped.

In the summer of 1845, West became offended at other members of the firm "Bliss, Dewey, West & Co.," which fact very soon reached the ears of some members of the committee. West was prevailed on to squeal, and convictions followed. To repeat the

matter as the story comes to me, let me copy an old diary I resurrected just the other day in the family of the late J. H. Adams, of Amboy. It was kept by C. F. Ingalls. No names are mentioned for the very good reason that it was unwise to even commit to paper the names of members of the gang:

“Banditti of the Prairie.

. . . “These miscreants had a line of operations extending from Texas, through Indian Territory, Missouri, the corner of Iowa, and Illinois. The route of this gang extended through Lee county and directly through our settlement, and by my cabin.

“Members of the gang lived among us and often supposed to be worthy, first class citizens, harbored, lodged and fed these traveling cut-throat thieves and scoundrels. Those committing overt acts of crime, traveled mostly by night and were unknown among us, even if they were ever seen.

“The chances of theft were described to them by our good neighboring rascals, and the traveling expert sinners did the rest.

“The whole stockholders then divided the booty.

“The gang operated mainly among people who were neither rich nor poor. If the settlements were poor, there was not much to steal, and if rich, detection and punishment were likely to be dealt out to them. Dr. Adams had a valuable horse stolen, and the track was followed twenty-five miles to Princeton, Bureau county. A stream ran through a deep, unfrequented common in the neighborhood, and the horse had slipped its bridle and came out to its owner making its search.

“George E. Haskell, a merchant of Inlet Grove, had his little trunk with its cash contents taken from under his bed one dark, stormy night, and broken open at the neighboring blacksmith shop, and of course, the money taken. Nobody could explain the probable villain concerned, yet four of our best appearing citizens were the transgressors.

“Proverbially, ‘Murder will out,’ and the same may be said of all other transgressions.

“A quantity of merchandise had been stolen in an adjoining county, and samples of the stolen goods betrayed clothes of the same cloth in the tailor’s shop of Thomas Brown, at Inlet Grove. Four of our honest neighbors had engaged garments made by Mr. Brown, and had furnished material corresponding with samples two gentlemen carried who were in pursuit of the transgress-



ors. The magistrate confided the fact of the find to only a few of us until the papers of arrest were ready and the four gentlemen simultaneously were arrested by the sheriff and taken to prison.

"These men, when taken before two of our magistrates, were ordered to be delivered to the sheriff of LaSalle county, where the goods were stolen. By (their) counsel, the verdict was declared to be illegal and resistance was advised. The people then came forward in a rage. We took the ground that two judges had decided the law, and they were the best and only civil court just then at hand; so the people volunteered what necessary aid the sheriff might need to see the verdict executed.

"The prisoners were loaded into the LaSalle county conveyance and the play, up to that point, was complete. After examination, I think three were allowed bail for appearance at the circuit court, and the fourth one sent to jail for want of bail bonds. The fourth man in jail threatened to turn states evidence if his richer confederates did not bail him out. He was duly encouraged to do so, and he did. Some of the guilty gang were allowed to visit the jail, and sleep there so they would converse and acknowledge facts the people wanted the jury to know. Before the final trial came testimony sufficiently fatal was gained. Three of the prisoners went to states prison and he who testified against the gang disappeared from sight and hearing among us to this day. We watched him with rifles as citizens, in his and our own defense. I think he might have been spirited away and his valuable testimony lost, had we not given him needed protection."

With the publication of this valuable diary, the story of the conviction in the LaSalle county circuit court, of Adolphus Bliss, Joseph Sawyer and Daniel Miller Dewey, is told. Never before has it been possible to tell the story accurately. Reasons of fear, or maudlin sympathy for others, has kept it from the pages of history until at this minute not one living person out near the old scenes of action knows for what crime the culprits suffered. In every single instance I have been told that it was for fencing stolen property, instead of receiving it, even by the few who were alive though young, at the time. Once West had told his story and his companions had been removed, he disclosed other important stories. Among the names disclosed of other guilty participants as well as actors, were Charles Oliver, Jr., and William McDowell, of Rockford, Fox and Birch, Bridge, Davis, Thomas Aiken and Baker. Among other revelations made by West, was the plan by which McKenney's store was robbed, and the names of the robbers. In



Bureau county another cumulative circumstance dovetailed very nicely with West's confession.

There, the gang tried to railroad another member to the penitentiary who was feared to be getting weak-kneed. While in jail the fellow confirmed the secrets of the Mulford robbery, already communicated by one Irving A. Stearns and West, and in consequence Oliver and McDowell of Winnebago county and William K. Bridge of Ogle county were indicted for committing the Mulford robbery, and after considerable strategy, all were arrested and taken to Rockford. Bail was refused. A month later, the murder of Colonel Davenport, July 4, 1845, fanned the slumbering anger of the people into a fury. Aug. 26, 1845, the trial of Oliver et al. was commenced at Rockford before Judge Thomas C. Browne. Stearns, who had gravitated into the Michigan penitentiary, and West were produced as witnesses. West testified that while Oliver was not present, he planned the Mulford robbery and received a share of the stolen money. A sharp cross-examination failed to break his story and Oliver was found guilty and sentenced to the Alton penitentiary for eight years. Later McDowell was convicted. Bridge took a change of venue to Ogle county, where he pleaded guilty and was sentenced.

Bliss died in the penitentiary. Miller Dewey never returned. Sawyer, however, did return to brave public feeling and he lived not far from the early scenes of his activities until the day of his death many years afterwards. In this connection it may be interesting to know that Sawyer was appointed first overseer of the poor for Lee county on April 16, 1840.

It took courage to combat that lawless gang; but the good people of the Inlet community had that courage, and in a new center of social activity the community's refined enjoyments were carried to loftiest points.

That removal was begun in 1844, and very soon thereafter it was completed. Lee Center was planned in 1846, and with the erection of the Academy, Inlet left the map. But before leaving its actors altogether I may as well add that an Inlet man, Milan Barnes, drove the stage coach from Chicago to Dixon which contained Bonney and his prisoner, Birch.

Inlet was located on both sides of Inlet creek at the point where the Chicago mail and stage road crossed it. The business portion of the place was located on the east side, although improvised taverns were to be found on the west side, and Bliss and the Deweys lived on the west side. The Travelers Home was on the west side.

Oscar Dewey, son of Corydon R. Dewey, who was born in the old log cabin at Inlet in 1840, informed me that his father located there in 1836. He told me also that Thomas J. Gray kept tavern on the east side and also the barns where the stage horses were changed. Gray and his sister, subsequently Mrs. DeWolf (now of Dixon), kept a grocery store whose stock included tobaccos. And right here it should be explained that Corydon R. Dewey, though related, should not in any manner be associated with Miller Dewey. He also is my authority for the statement that David Tripp, Sr., kept a log tavern on the east side of the creek, one room of which was used as a school room. Corydon R. Dewey permitted his house to be used as a tavern during the California fever, but that was all.

He erected a sawmill on the west side of the creek and a Major Chamberlain erected one on the east side. By a trade made soon after, Dewey became owner of the Chamberlain mill and he ran both until into the fifties.

Mr. Albert Z. Bodine confirmed the Tripp tavern and school room story and added that there had been three David Tripps in Lee Center, the grandfather of the tavern and his son and grandson.

At Lee Center, when Inlet had removed there, Mr. Bodine clerked in the Hitchcock store for two years while Luke Hitchcock was postmaster, in fact, the first postmaster of Lee Center; and during that time he received the mails from the stages going in each direction; that from Chicago was due at 10:30 P. M., and that from Dixon was due at 10 P. M., when on time. When, however, the roads were muddy and the going bad, the mails came along at any time of night and sometimes not until the noon following, pretty much as trains nowadays come along.

He told me also that the fare from Dixon to Chicago was \$5 and from Inlet and Lee Center, \$4.50.

Corn at market then was worth in trade 10 cents; wheat in Chicago was worth 35 and 40 cents; cattle on the hoof, 2 or 2½ cents; dressed pork, 21½ cents.

From Dixon, Lee Center was the first stop, then at Inlet, the stage still stopped to change horses; Melugin's Grove was the next stop, where at John Gilmore's the horses were changed. Then at West Paw Paw, the next stop was made, it being the desire of the Frink and Walker people to make no more than twelve miles at a time. Trips were made every day but Sunday.

At Lee Center the old Daniel Frost tavern still stands, pretty much as it did then. John Eisenberg occupies it. I also learned

from Mr. Bodine that groceries were bought pretty generally at Peru; but that Chicago was the best wheat and livestock market.

A day and a half, or a day and half the night, were consumed generally in making the stage trip to Chicago.

Mrs. James M. Shaw, daughter of Russel Linn, of Lee Center, gave me the best account of the old days I was able to get in all of my Inlet work. The old red and yellow stage coaches, droning along, appeared to her vision as distinctly as when they used to travel past the home of her father, on the old Chicago road. They were of the old Concord type, rounding up front and rear, and given their easy swinging motion because they rested on leather springs, layered together in fourteen layers.

Mrs. Shaw went through the fearful tornado or cyclone of 1860. She and Mrs. E. M. Grose, who live in Dixon, and Ira W. Lewis, also of Dixon, all of whom passed through the storm, have given me the information from which I am able to give the first connected story of that devastating storm.

The storm struck Lee county at about the center of the west line of Harmon township. It passed directly through Harmon and Marion townships, almost in a straight easterly direction, and aside from little destruction of fencing, did nothing destructive in either town. In continued its easterly course into Amboy township, but almost immediately it veered to the northeast and, passing to the north of the city of Amboy, it did the first real damage when it reached the farm of Michael Morse on the northeast quarter of section 9 in Amboy township. Here the buildings were demolished. Mr. Morse was badly hurt and his wife, Trial, and their daughter, Emma, were killed.

Continuing northeasterly, it reached the farm of Isaac Gage. In passing it shook the Linn house in which Mrs. Shaw was sitting, like a cradle, and the vibrations of that awful evening come back to her in all their awful realism, whenever the day returns to her memory.

Every building on the Gage place on the northwest quarter of section 1 in Amboy township was destroyed, and Ethelbert, a young son, was killed. Another son was injured so badly that he died soon afterwards. Another son, Luke, also was injured so seriously that he was an invalid for many years. A daughter, Helen, by name, also was disabled for a long time.

Mrs. Grose in describing the scene told me she felt sure the duration of the cyclone was not more than a minute and a very short one too.



At the same instant almost, the wind struck a tenant house just across the road from the Gage place, on the premises of Judge Lorenzo Wood, lifted it from the ground and never again did anybody ever hear of that house. Not a single board or splinter of all the debris was ever found or recognized. The homestead in which Judge Wood lived was wrecked a little but not much. The tenants in the tenant building were spilled out, but not injured to speak of. The ceiling above in the Wood house was pushed down and it pinned down Judge Wood, who was lying on the bed, so that he could scarcely move; yet he was not scratched. The Peter LaForge house was hit next. His kitchen was cut off neatly from the main part of the house, but the damage was very slight indeed.

The Horace Preston place was visited next. Mrs. Grose is a daughter of Mr. Preston and she went through experiences in this storm which come to few people, and she earnestly prays that it never will come again to any members of her family. Upstairs, Mr. Preston said to his wife, "Go down into the cellar." Mrs. Preston picked up the little three-year-old boy and started down stairs and Mr. Preston picked up the little eight-year-old daughter, Ella, now Mrs. Grose, and the little four-year-old daughter, one under each arm, and started for the cellar; but before Mr. Preston had advanced six feet the roof went off and he and the children, still in his arms, were sent sailing over the tops of trees, and he landed on his feet in the garden, about three hundred and fifty feet away. Mrs. Preston held on to the boy, Horace, Jr., and he was killed in her arms.

A splinter was sent into the side of Mr. Preston which troubled him fearfully and ultimately took him off in death.

In the cellar of the Preston house there were eggs, pans of milk, and other articles, but not one single thing was disturbed by even so little as a hair's breadth. The clothes of the girls were torn to shreds.

While visiting Mrs. Grose on Nov. 21, 1913, she brought me the family Bible which was sent over the fields a great distance and later recovered. This book sustained scarcely any damage, but another smaller book, entitled "The School and the Schoolmaster," by Alonzo Potter, published by Harper and Brother in 1844, was so covered with mud that its contents were nearly obliterated, and to this day the mud sticks just as closely as it did the hour it was recovered. A churn was blown five miles. In the Preston house stood a stove. Its top was taken off as smoothly as though removed



by a cold chisel and sent half a mile away. A crock, too, was sent along for company and it was not cracked.

An iron kettle which Mrs. Grose owns still was thrown into the well and into it was hurled a flatiron, yet the kettle was not scratched.

Between the Preston house and barn stood a straw hog house. When the storm had passed it was discovered that not one straw seemed to have been disturbed. The cattle and horses all were driven away, but the horses all returned and the cattle were found subsequently and brought back home.

One incredible incident occurred on the Preston place which has been vouched for by many who saw it. A corn stalk was driven clear through one of the boards of the wagon bed. Chickens were plucked of their feathers and the next morning the poor things were running wildly about the place until relieved of their sufferings by shooting.

At the Daniel Frost place next in its path, little damage was done. At the Martin Wright place the tornado did some very freakish antics. Every bit of the house was demolished with the exception of one part of one wall. On a couch against this wall Mrs. Wright, an invalid, had been lying. While her sister sustained fearful bruises, including a broken jaw, Mrs. Wright was not disturbed.

The storm just grazed the village of Lee Center. From this point it veered northeasterly and caught the barn of Cyreno Sawyer and killed a horse. On the John Lane place on the Franklin Grove road, not far from Lee Center, the premises were leveled off as smoothly as a floor after a sweeping.

Then crossing over still further to the northeast, the Colton place was struck. The house was demolished and Nettie Colton, a beautiful young girl in her early teens, was killed instantly. Her older sister, in her night robe, crossed the fields to the house of her uncle, Cephas Clapp, for help.

The Woodruff place was the last to suffer in those parts; but not extensively. The loss was slight although the inmates of the house were shaken badly. Returning to an easterly course, the storm swept over the swamps and by reason of the lack of houses, no damage was done until it entered the town of Willow Creek. In that town it was very destructive and a detailed account of it will be found in that part of the book referring to Willow Creek township.

In Lee Center the churches were moved from their foundations, but it remained for the subsequent storm of 1862 to complete the work of destruction of the church property. In that year a cyclone destroyed the Methodist Episcopal church and played as many fantastic tricks with stoves and other articles as the one of '60 did at the Preston house. Aside from this damage, however, no serious damage was done around Lee Center.

In the storm of '60 everything struck by the cyclone was plastered with mud; the Preston baby was covered in a manner almost to defy human skill in the efforts made to remove it.

Mrs. Grose said the storm roared very like the passing of a train of cars at lightning speed. The day had been excessively hot and the air was humid. The destroying cloud was inky black and as I have stated, it seemed to Mrs. Preston as though no more than one minute at the very outside was consumed in its passage from the Gage house to its flight across the swamps.

Though third in point of settlement, Inlet early took on an importance second only to Dixon's Ferry, and although the lady did not settle in Inlet when first introduced to Lee county, a Lee Center lady came into the county in 1832.

Mrs. S. W. Phelps, starting from New York city, came via the Kellogg trail from Springfield in 1832 and her letter describing that journey, found in the section of this history which concerns trails, will be read with consuming interest.

In 1852, twenty years after, she came to Lee Center to live.

From the most reliable sources at hand, I am led to believe that Mr. and Mrs. Adolphus Bliss became the first permanent settlers of Lee Center township. They reached this township in May, 1834. Mrs. Bliss was the first white woman to come to the township and the second white woman to settle in Lee county. The family lived in their new home about a year before a neighbor came to settle near them, the Dixons being their nearest neighbors. Not far from their home two hundred Indians were encamped, waiting for their pay under recent treaties. John Fosdick was the blacksmith employed by the Government to mend their guns. These Indians must have remained some time for their money because when later Mrs. Ira Brewer and Mrs. Lewis Clapp had moved in, both testified to some quiet scares sustained from the Indians. In the case of Mrs. Clapp, she was frying doughnuts when several Indians walked unceremoniously into the kitchen and ranged themselves around the wall. Then the leader or chief relieved her of her doughnuts.

From well authenticated authorities, I have found the following settlers to have reached Inlet in the following years. Some of them may have settled just outside of Lee Center township, but they were regarded as Lee Center people.

Volney Bliss came with his people in 1834. His father, Adolphus, took up for claims the west half of the southwest quarter of section four and the northeast quarter of section 9, in Lee Center township. Charles F. Ingalls settled in the southern part of the township in 1836. Sherman Shaw, who drove from New York state all the way to Inlet with two pigs as part of his worldly possessions, reached Inlet in 1837. Moses Crombie came in 1837; Cyrenus Sawyer, 1835; Joseph Sawyer, 1835; Ira W. Lewis, 1842; Warren D. Clink, 1841; Orrin M. Lewis, 1847; Ephraim Whitney, 1845; Joseph A. Hodges, 1845; Edwin Morey, 1847; Willard Salsbury, 1847; Thomas Nicholson, 1848; John Wedlock, 1848.

Several families moved into the Inlet district in 1835-36 and 37. Besides Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Clapp and Mr. and Mrs. Ira Brewer, I find the names of John Fosdick, the David Tripp family, Sherman Shaw, C. R. Dewey and Orange Webster; in 1837 Mr. Birdsall and his sons-in-law, Luke Hitchcock and Oscar F. Ayres, all of whom stopped at the Tripp house. The Tripp house seems to have been a popular tavern because so many stopped with him.

Dr. R. F. Adams, the first physician, arrived in 1837, and he was made welcome.

Roswell Streeter made a claim in Lee Center, but he did not settle on it until the following year when he moved his family out from Allegany county, New York. This man's claim included the spot upon which Lee Center village now stands. These with a Doctor Hubbard, a Doctor Welch, Dr. Charles Gardner, Charles Ingalls, C. F. Ingalls, Dr. Ephraim Ingalls, C. L. Sawyer, Reverend DeWolf (who stopped at the Tripp house), Miss Ann Chamberlin, Otis Timothy, were among the number who settled thus early in Lee Center township.

Inlet comprised everything clear through to the western and southern county lines. In Inlet and Lee Center the abolition movement in Lee county had its origin. In the fall of 1846, the first abolition society was formed in the log schoolhouse one mile west of Lee Center. John Cross, a Congregational minister and a man who boasted of keeping an underground station for the assistance of negroes into Canada, issued a call to meet in that schoolhouse for the purpose of forming an abolition society.



Owen Lovejoy was present and made a rousing speech. A Free Soil club was organized of which Russel Linn was made president. Among the members of the society who were present then were: Martin Wright, Lewis Clapp, Sylvester Frisbee, Ransom Barnes, Joseph Farwell, Bononi Hannon, Daniel Frost, Ira Brewer, Moses Crombie and John Cross.

So, too, the first temperance society was a Lee Center product. Joseph Gardner was its president and President Francis Leonard of the Academy made an address at its first meeting. Among the members were Doctor Wasson, Rev. Charles Cross, Doctor Welch, Rev. John Ingersoll, Rev. Luke Hitchcock, Rev. Erastus DeWolf, Rev. George Benton, Reverend Fisk, H. H. Andrews. (Last two from Dixon.) These gentlemen all addressed the meeting. Other members present were Charles F. Ingalls, Joseph Lewis, Bernard Whitney, Betsey Hale, Caroline Whitney, Miranda Strickland, N. Peterson, Warren Henry Badger, Michael Henry Blooker, John C. Church, William S. Frost, O. W. Clapp, Cyrus Bridgeman, Ransom Barnes, Lyman Wheat. At some of their meetings Deacon Joseph Farwell led the singing with his violin. On one Sunday a temperance tune was struck up to the tune of Old Dan Tucker. The minister remonstrated mildly, but the tune went to a finish.

The name of this temperance society was the Washington Temperance Society of Palestine Grove and its first meeting was held in the Wasson schoolhouse, September, 1847. Some four hundred signed the pledge, the first being Charlotte Doan and the last one Chester Badger.

As an educational center, Lee Center is entitled to more than passing notice and comment. For many years the village of Lee Center was the best known community in the county and students from every section of the country attended the Academy there.

In respect of education, Lee Center was started right. Almost every one of the early settlers, beginning with Inlet, were from New England and had received more than a casual education. Many were teachers and it is astonishing to notice the numbers of physicians and ministers who gravitated to that place. Naturally their first thought was of education for their children.

So early as 1836, a school was opened in the Adolphus Bliss house, one room serving the purpose. A room in Tripp's tavern also was used. Miss Ann Chamberlain taught the same during the summer of 1836 and thus became the first teacher in Lee Center township.



In 1837, I believe, the first school building was built of logs; its cracks were chinked with mud; the floor was laid with split logs. A fireplace with chimney made on the outside, of rough stones, furnished heat when the weather demanded a fire. Split logs or puncheons were made into seats; a desk for the teacher was constructed after the same pattern as the seats. The building was built in the edge of the timber, not far from Mr. Bliss's house. A hazel thicket on the Bliss place screened it off from the road effectually. Over the creek which had to be crossed by some, there was no bridge, and those pupils who came from the opposite side took off their shoes and stockings, and fording the stream, resumed the shoes and pushed forward to school. Ira Brewer helped to build this log school.

For three months in the winter of 1837-38, Mr. Otis Timothy taught in this school. Afterwards George E. Haskell, who came to Inlet early, taught in that schoolhouse and a most satisfactory teacher he proved to be. Mr. Timothy's salary was \$15 per month and he was boarded round. During his stay he had twenty or twenty-five pupils. A. G. Streeter was one of his pupils, a gentleman of national renown subsequently, having been a prominent candidate for President of the United States.

One of Mr. Haskell's methods for securing efficiency was to offer 50 cents to the pupil who left off head most times in a term.

By the year 1843 there were several schools around Inlet. In one of those Mrs. Sallie P. Stark, or Starks, taught five boys and five girls ranging in age from the lisping child to the young person of twenty or a little more perhaps. This teacher taught twelve hours per day and the year round, I am told.

In the year 1844, by reason of the manner of terrorizing the people of Inlet by the banditti, most of the settlers moved over to Lee Center as stated already.

At that time a school for higher education was demanded, and once the agitation was begun, it was characteristic of the people to go ahead with it. The subject was not permitted to slumber for an instant, and nothing arrested the progress of the scheme until the Lee Center Union Academy, bell and all, became a reality.

With the year 1846, the project had assumed a definite shape. About that time Moses Crombie moved into Lee Center. He was a carpenter by trade, and he contracted to do all the carpenter work in and about the building.

According to the memory of Mr. Albert Z. Bodine, which is very accurate, Messrs. Burroughs and Bull of Dixon did the brick

work and very soon a brick exterior academy was completed, the brick being made from clay found near by and burned near the building.

In the year 1853, a stone addition was made to it, during the administration of Simeon Wright, principal, a noted educator who began his work in 1853. He came west from Battle Creek, Michigan.

The first principal of this famous old school was Hiram McChesney. Seven trustees and five special directors directed its affairs.

Lee Center immediately took on a great reputation. Students from all over the country came here to attend. Parents who came along to settle their children comfortably, were astonished to find such an institution nestling snugly among the pretty homes, most of them still standing, and to find such a cultured people.

Oh! Those were glorious days in old Lee Center. Lyceums, lectures, traveling troupes giving entertainments in the chapel, entertained the residents and the students. The debates in those famous old days were fought out with all the industry of a contemporaneous session of Congress. Societies then, as now in university towns, switched the students into little cliques. And what a melody of noise they made on every special function or society victory! The big university town today is not a whit different from old Lee Center in its palmy days. For fifteen lively and happy years at least, Lee Center occupied the most important place in Lee county history. College life entered into the routine of every Lee Center family. But with the coming of the railroads and their town-building influences all around, Lee Center declined in a worldly way, but unto this day, its people possessing great riches in moneys and in the better parts of human accomplishments, proud as Lucifer, stand as proud of the Lee Center of today as their ancestors were proud of old Lee Center. It is today a beautiful little place; its old homes, beautifully kept, lend glamour and romance. But look at the Wellman, Shaw, Haskell and other homes, tidily kept, and the visitor will retire with sentiments I have endeavored to describe.

During last September, one of the most beautiful buildings of the county, erected through the generous bounty of Mrs. Abigail L. Haskell, widow of the George E. Haskell of 1840, was dedicated and Mrs. Haskell at ninety-three attended the ceremonies. Above, the Odd Fellows have their lodge rooms and banquet hall. In the basement the kitchens are located. The ground floor contains a commodious storeroom.

The furniture of walnut is designed after the latest patterns. The decorations of blue and gold present the most substantial as well as the most gorgeous lodge rooms in Lee county.

Hand in hand with the college life of the old days, interest centered in church life in old Lee Center, and it is safe to say, in no other community did church life hold such general and generous sway as there.

Peter Cartwright preached the first sermon at Inlet at C. R. Dewey's house in the spring of 1836. During the same year, in the summer, the first Methodist class was organized with John Fosdick leader. Mr. David Tripp who settled there in 1837, was the first Baptist to settle in Inlet, and a man named Heyler and another named Tourtillott settled there and preached occasionally in the Tripp house. This same Tripp was Lee county's first collector.

When Mr. Tripp built his new barn, a protracted meeting was held in it and a number of converts were secured. The first Baptist church was organized at about that same time and services were held in the Tripp house until the schoolhouse was erected near the Dewey mill on the bank of the creek in the northeast quarter of section 9, when church services were held in it. The circuit rider who held services there was a young married man named Smith. His circuit trips east and west from Inlet took generally two weeks and while at Inlet he stopped always at Mr. C. R. Dewey's. There one day he was taken ill and in a few days he died, and his was the first funeral at Inlet, in 1837. Luke Hitchcock filled the pulpit at the time for the Methodists, and he preached the funeral sermon for the unfortunate young Mr. Smith. That was the first funeral sermon preached in Lee Center.

Considering the privations and the meagre emolument for the preacher in those days, it is astonishing that so many of Inlet's first settlers were preachers. When Mr. Birdsall came there in 1837 and took up his quarters at Mr. Tripp's house, his two sons-in-law, Luke Hitchcock and Osear F. Ayres, came with him, both Methodist preachers.

The circuit rider always made Inlet. It was customary in those days to receive notice that the preacher would arrive in a neighborhood about a certain time. His entertainment was provided for first and then the word was passed from settler to settler to be present. Invariably the preacher had a good congregation. Many times he slept on a clay floor of a log cabin. The winds may have whistled through between the unchinked logs and through the windows which at best were glazed with cotton cloth.



Buttermilk may have constituted the drink and most of the victuals, in many instances, but with such men as Peter Cartwright victual and drink and sleeping apartment made little difference; they were one and the same. The old circuit riders were all alike in standing up under the most rigorous life.

Newspapers were generally a month old by the time they reached Inlet; books were scarce and the Bible generally constituted the most valued member of every library.

Three pretty churches have been built in Lee Center, the successor of Inlet, the Methodist, the Congregational and the Episcopal. For a time, in the morning, the Congregationalists held services and a Sunday school; in the afternoon, the Episcopalians held their services and in the evening the Methodists. In the Congregational church, Deacons Crombie and Barnes took up the collection; at the Episcopal services, Dr. Charles Gardner and Garrett La Forge. At each service, nearly the same congregation attended, thus giving to Lee Center a religious influence and character which is present today. So much for a proper influence in the beginning of things in a community.

The Congregational society was organized at the home of Moses Crombie and was called the "Congregational Church of Palestine Grove." Afterwards and until 1849, services were conducted in the Wasson schoolhouse, after which date they were removed to Lee Center.

For some time before the Lee Center churches were built, church services were held in the academy, the people coming over from Palestine Grove to join. Here are some of the names of a congregation preserved to us from the correspondence of one of the worshippers, Mrs. James Crombie: Mr. and Mrs. James Farwell, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Church, Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Davis, Miss Mary Barnes, Charles Hitchcock, Dr. and Mrs. R. F. Adams, Dr. and Mrs. Ingalls, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Clapp, Deacon Barnes and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Moses Crombie, Lyman Wheat, Josephine and George, Mr. and Mrs. Swartwout, Abram and Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Church, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Frisbee, Martin Wright and Helen, Rev. James Brewer, principal of the Academy, Miss Harriet Rewey, the primary teacher, David Smith and two daughters, Mrs. Bourne and Mrs. Sancer, Mrs. Lee Clapp and Alice, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Bodine, Albert Z. Bodine, Ira Brewer, Uncle Elisha Pratt and Sarah, Squire Haskell, John Warnick, Sabra, and Mrs. John Crombie. The pastor was Rev. S. W. Phelps, and it was his first pastorate. Mr. Brewer pitched the tunes; John



Wetherbee, the Misses Barnes, Mrs. Henry Frisbee and Mrs. Martin Wright composed the choir. Among the many old Lee Center folks who spread sunshine over the community were Uncle Russel Linn, Uncle Dan Frost with their life companions, Aunt Abbie and Aunt Eulalia, Mrs. Birdsall, her daughter, Mrs. Luke Hitchcock, Mrs. Warnick, Mrs. John H. Gardner and so many quiet, beautiful, heroic women, yet so deferentially unobtrusive that their names with their beautiful lives slipped away so tenderly that time has permitted them to remain undisturbed even by the ruthless historian who grubs and digs into graves and garrets indiscriminately.

But old Lee Center had its troubles as well as its joys. It seemed as if Inlet was annoyed more than any other community by the terror of the prairies, the banditti of the prairie. Claim jumpers too made life miserable for some of the pioneer settlers until in common with every other community, its honest members were compelled to bind themselves together by not only moral and physical ties, but by written indentures. Here is a copy of the Inlet document:

“Inlet, Ogle Co., Ill., July 10, 1837.

“The encouragement which Congress gave to the pioneers of this country stimulated the present inhabitants to sacrifice property and ease and commence a long and fatiguing journey in order to better themselves and their offspring; not only the fatigue of a long and expensive journey, but the privations to which they were exposed in consequence of the scarcity of the comforts of life and the exposure to the inclemency of the weather in an open log cabin. Everything considered, we think it no more than right, just and honorable that each man should hold a reasonable claim, and at the land sales obtain his lands at Congress price.

“Therefore, We, the subscribers, feel willing to come under any rules and regulations that are warranted by honor and principle in regard to our honest claims.

“Therefore, We establish a few rules and regulations whereby we may be governed by principles of equity.”

Seven articles follow and the signatures.

These rules were adopted July 10, 1837, after having been drafted by the committee composed of George E. Haskell, Benjamin Whitaker, Joseph Sawyer, Lewis Clapp and Martin Wright.

At the public sales of land, the Government required the cash, \$1.25 per acre. One class of sharpers had invented the scheme of pretending to bid when the land was offered, so that he might be

bought off; but this was soon spoiled by one settler for each neighborhood standing near by, and where a piece of land, "claimed" by an actual settler, was offered to cry out, "settler!" With the sentiment of the home-seekers around him running strongly against the speculator, but one or two instances were enough to stop that means of trying to extort from poor settlers slight bonuses to prevent bidding. Physical force was used to stop it and when resorted to the officers of the law were conveniently absent.

When Mr. Haskell came to Inlet, he bought the "grout" building belonging to Mr. David Tripp and moving it nearer to the east bank of Inlet creek, he opened the first store at Inlet. As Mr. Haskell was the first postmaster of Inlet, that building was used as the postoffice. Subsequently it was moved to Lee Center. At first Mr. Haskell lived in a log cabin; subsequently he erected a frame building. He, with Lewis Clapp was known always to have ready money at hand and so when it was "tipped off" to Fox of the banditti that Mr. Haskell had the money secreted in a trunk under his bed Fox planned to get it.

These desperadoes terrorized the whole country until 1841, when the enraged community covering territory from Rockford to Inlet and Dixon, led out the Driscolls over in Ogle county and shot them to death. Civilization triumphed by the same means employed by the bandits. Courts and penitentiaries had no terrors for the bandits. Their friends and sympathizers were so numerous and so strongly were they intrenched that a jury could not be found in some counties to render a conviction. In one instance a jail was burned in order to facilitate the escape of a member of the gang.

Inlet was about twelve miles from Dixon. It was one of the important points in the state for years and the Inlet ladies went to Dixon to shop when one or more item of finery was demanded. But with the birth of Lee Center, that pretentious place had fineries of its own to sell, even to a millinery store. Miss Mary Barnes who had learned something of the milliner's art in LaSalle, did bonnet trimming.

When the Illinois Central railroad wanted to enter Lee Center, that prosperous little place may have been somewhat proud and unyielding in her notions of prosperity and the possibility of its disappearance was considered preposterous. Railroads were new and untried and might not be worth to a community half so much as an academy. Perhaps that inasmuch as the stage coach had been good enough to serve them in the past, the new rail invention

might not be able to supplant it. At all events the railroad took all the business to Amboy and in the face of the life which at once appeared in Amboy, Lee Center could not stand. For nearly fifty years Lee Center, so far as business was concerned, lay dormant.

At various times efforts to interest another railroad have failed. Under the direction of Mr. George H. T. Shaw, an electric line was partially graded between Dixon and Lee Center; but by a cruel stroke of fate, a death and the consequent failure to respond in money to the needs of the road, cut its career short and the grade and the project were abandoned.

Undaunted by failures however, Elijah L. King, Andrew Aschenbrenner, Reinhart Aschenbrenner and Sherman Shaw, provided funds and built an electric road between Amboy and Lee Center and equipped it with stock to carry passengers, coal, grain and live stock. More than this, these gentlemen extended the road northward and eastward until it runs now almost to Ashton and with the possibility of its going forward to Rochelle in the near future, the success of the road seems to be assured.

Under present management, the farmers along the line can have a sidetrack run into their yards, if they choose and there load grain and stock and unload coal. It has proved one of the greatest blessings to the people of Lee Center and Bradford that could possibly come to them.

The progressiveness of the Lee Center people has been evidenced year after year by the splendid hard roads which have been built in the township and today Lee Center has the best system of hard roads of any township in Lee county.

The same power which furnishes electricity for the road, furnishes light for the village and for the farmers along the line.

Lee Center is a beautiful place; its homes are suggestive of comfort and contentment. The township is inhabited by the same class of sturdy people which settled there in the early days. It is doubtful if there is a richer farm community than Lee Center. Its people always have enjoyed the distinction of being what we term rich in property. At the time of his death, Lewis Clapp was the richest man in the county. This township has furnished Lee county with many of its most important officers beginning with George E. Haskell, who was elected clerk of the circuit court and recorder. Charles F. Lynn was made sheriff.

Lands in Lee Center now range in price from one hundred and eighty-five dollars to two hundred and fifty dollars per acre. Some of the large land holders are Sherman Shaw, a son of one of Lee



Center's oldest and best pioneers, James M. Shaw, who in turn was born at Inlet in 1838.

Instead of the log cabin, unchinked and floorless, doorless and windowless, there are everywhere beautiful homes, heated by steam and hot water and hot air. Sanitary plumbing is installed. With the prevalence of electric poles over the county, which may be tapped at any place, those houses are lighted with electricity.

It may be true that in the south end of the township the land is more or less sandy, but the quantity and extent may be said to be so small as to fail to affect the average values in the township.

The early markets for Lee Center were the same for other towns, Chicago and the towns along the canal. Ox teams prevailed, though of course teams were used by some for freight transportation. A week was consumed to make the trip from Lee Center to Chicago and return, with a horse team; with an ox team, two days longer were required.

Farmers hauling their grain from Lee Center and vicinity, planned to reach the Desplaines river by evening of the third day. The next day they drove to Chicago, sold their grain and got back to the Desplaines river that evening, thus spending two consecutive evenings or nights at that point. The old hotel stands today telling its story in memories which every old settler carried to his grave. It is a long low building near the west bank of the Desplaines and on the north side of the tracks of the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad Company. It is seen easily just west of River Forest.

When the wagon got stuck in a slough, it was customary to unload the cargo, carry it to high ground, pull out the wagon, reload, and without drying one's clothing soaked with water, to pursue the journey uncomplainingly.

Peru was nearer and after a while became popular because less time was consumed.

Of course there was more opportunity for company along the Chicago Stage road which runs today diagonally across the county from northwest to the southeast almost as it did then, than was to be found along the Peru road, and that circumstance had its influences. Beginning with Jan. 1, 1834, the stage ran along the stage road through Inlet and at intervals carried the mail from Galena to Chicago and back.

Frequent efforts were made to rob the stage coaches by the banditti, and to rob passengers and the messengers who transported



the land office moneys, but no effort was fruitful of any degree of success, that I am aware of.

When Col. John Dement was receiver of the United States land office, many plots were laid to rob his messengers, but none succeeded. Beginning with the year 1840, when he came to Dixon with the land office from Galena, it ever was his habit to study means to thwart the plans of the banditti, and they expressed marvel at the vigilance which could defeat them. In those days the Government money was sent by Colonel Dement to Peru, from which point it was sent by boat to St. Louis.

How vast was Inlet once! Three sides of the county were its borders. Now Inlet is a tradition. Lee Center absorbed it through its civilizing agencies. Then as though to avenge the grievances of poor Inlet, the railroad appeared to the westward and all the glory of Lee Center trembled.

But though its power might dissolve and though its people may have been attracted to Amboy and its railroad, Lee Center had been built upon foundations too massive to permit its sturdy superstructure to topple. Today there remain of the old families, worthy sons and daughters who cannot be drawn away: Mrs. Mary Rebecca Linn-Shaw, widow of James M. Shaw, born in the township, a daughter of George Russel Linn; Sherman L. Shaw, her son; Oscar Dewey, son of Corydon R. Dewey, born at Inlet in 1840; George W. Brewer and Mrs. Brewer, daughter of a Tripp; James E. Gray; W. S. Frost, one of the original stock, and his son, W. S.; Mrs. Will Gray, daughter of Tripp, the tavern keeper east of Inlet; Ernest Leavens and Mrs. Isaac Wood, descendants of the DeWolfs. They remain. Everywhere the influence of old Lee Center remains. The pretty little stone office of Doctors Adams and Ingalls stands today and is used as a residence. On the site of the old academy there has arisen a fine brick school building of three rooms, the primary, the intermediate and the high school of thirty-six, twenty and fourteen pupils respectively. Presiding over these grades are the Misses Grace Starks, Emily Williams and Alfreda Steineiker. Two hundred and fifty comprise the population. The Methodist Church is vacant and the Episcopal Church has been converted into a Modern Woodmen hall, but the Congregational Church is presided over by Rev. Frederick Kempster.

Swan A. Sandberg's blacksmithing and general repair shop is a large one and his business includes automobile repairing. Taylor

& Co. sell groceries; J. J. Eisenberg sells groceries and George Brasel keeps a general store.

The King Grain Company handles grain, lumber, coal, cement, sand, gravel and tiles. A. G. Carlson and J. B. Flatt buy eggs and poultry.

Mr. L. E. Lippincott's orchestra of sixty pieces is an institution. The same gentleman also has a photograph studio and job printing establishment.

The telephone exchange is operated by Mrs. Lucy Utley. Frank Starks, the contractor, is kept busy all the time. Then too the powerhouse, which furnishes light for the village and power for the railroad, deserves more than passing mention. The Illinois Northern Utilities Company have contracted to install very soon a powerful generator which will revolutionize the service offered Lee Center and Bradford.

The Modern Woodmen of America have a membership of 140. A. F. Jeanblanc is V. C.; L. E. Lippincott is W. A.; Charles N. Frost, clerk; Philo L. Berry, banker, and Reinhart Aschenbrenner, F. W. Harck, Jr., and G. W. Fuller are trustees.

There are eighty-four members of Abigail Lodge of Rebekahs. Mrs. Genevieve Frost is N. G.; Laura A. Bronson, V. G.; Ada Henschel, recording secretary; Addie Pomeroy, financial secretary; Ada Miller, treasurer, and Eva Miller, chaplain.

There are sixty members of Lee Center Lodge 146, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, established in 1856. Frank Kesselring is W. M.; Fred Gross is S. W.; Warren Leake, J. W.; Reinhart Hillison, S. D.; F. S. Berry, J. D.; A. Aschenbrenner, secretary; John C. Smith, treasurer, and J. B. Flatt, tyler.

Haskell Lodge 1004, Independent Order Odd Fellows, has eighty-six members. G. Hasselberg is N. G.; H. Brunson, V. G.; G. L. Richardson, recording secretary; A. J. Carlson, financial secretary; G. P. Miller, treasurer, and George Perry, chaplain; F. Kempster is district deputy.



HASKELL LODGE I. O. O. F. 1004, LEE CENTER  
Dedication Sept. 10, 1913





## CHAPTER XXVII

### MARION TOWNSHIP

Although under the title of Marion township, this wealthy township can date back to 1854 only. Nevertheless Marion's history began with the day when O. W. Kellogg drove across Lee county in the year 1825 to make his trail to the lead mines. The trail ran through this township and the stages on its successor, the Peru and Peoria road, ran through this town until the Illinois Central railroad ended forever the usefulness of the stage coach in Lee county. The Cleveland toll gate was located on that road in this township and the early scenes thrillingly and truthfully related elsewhere were enacted in this and East Grove townships. But because Chicago grew so rapidly and outbid Peru and Peoria and even St. Louis for business, population along this trail did not settle so thickly as along the trail called the Chicago road, and therefore it is we have heard so little about Marion in the books. The first permanent settler whose name I am able to secure was David Welty, who started for the West in the year 1838, from Buffalo, New York, accompanied by Aaron L. Porter, subsequently sheriff of this county, and other friends. They rode horses all the way. He came west to benefit his health. All who came with him were robust men and yet he outlived them all.

He reached Dixon's Ferry and tarried until his wife and oldest son, John, could join him, which they did the following year. Mr. and Mrs. Scott, mother and father of Mrs. Welty, came with them.

In the year 1840 Mr. Welty and the family moved to the land, on section 34, he had preempted on Inlet (Green) river, after building a double log house, the doors, sash and flooring for which were hauled from Chicago. The floors were covered with brussels carpet, the first to come to Lee county and for a considerable time were a rare curiosity. The furniture was all mahogany and

black walnut and contrasted strongly against the rough exterior of the unhewn logs. But those rugs, those carpets and that elegant furniture made the most luxurious home in Lee county, and after Mrs. Welty had her crying spell out for lonesomeness, she enjoyed the West so thoroughly that she never cared to return eastward.

For years this home was the social center of the whole county and it was no uncommon occurrence for neighbors for twenty miles around to hitch their teams to attend a social event at the Welty's. The old stages used to drive almost past the Welty door and travelers used to alight to take a good look at that marvelous home sitting alone in the wilderness. For many years there were but three houses between Princeton and Dixon, Dad Joe's, another south of Palestine Grove and the Welty house.

Among those who made up the sleighing parties in those days were Elias B. Stiles, Col. Silas Noble, Major Sterling, father of John M. Sterling of today; Aaron L. Porter, "Than" Porter; Father Dixon, James P. and John, Jr.; Smith Gilbraith; James McKenney; Daniel B. McKenney; Henry McKenney; Lorenzo Wood; George Chase; William W. Heaton; Dr. Oliver Everett; Paul Gallup; Col. John Dement; P. Maxwell Alexander and one McBoel, who was a beautiful performer on the violin and a first class artist.

Later David Welty became probate judge of the county, a very prominent citizen and at his death a man of large means. At present his youngest son, Charles F. Welty, who is supervisor of the township, owns the same old home farm and he too is a very prominent citizen and a gentleman of large means.

John Welty, the oldest son, who went to live in Washington, D. C., where he held a fine position in one of the departments, was one of the brightest of all the bright young men who were raised in the county of Lee. For wit and high class humor, it is doubtful if any other community could produce a match for John Welty and Charles Stiles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elias B. Stiles.

The father of E. H. and Charles Brewster, while not dating his entrance into Marion so far back as Judge Welty, came at an early date.

Marion has been peculiarly fortunate in its population. While not settling up so rapidly as other parts of the county, today it is filled by beautifully cultivated homes, splendid houses, large red barns, fine stock, and contented, happy people. If ever a township of land responded to the efforts of the homebuilder, Marion has done so.

Settled largely by the sons and daughters of old Ireland, the Marion of today is one of the best exemplifications of what toil, honesty and frugality linked with patience will do.

Those heroic Irishmen and Irishwomen reached this country without money. They yearned for a country which would present them with the opportunity to carve a home and a competency for their children. The Irish love their families and for those little boys and girls which came along to the early Irish of Marion township, those parents toiled early and late, often denying themselves some of the necessities of life in order that the children coming on might have homes without the drudgery of wresting them from the earth, generous though it was.

Those parents came here penniless. In the old country, they had been ground down by the hand of tyranny. They never had been permitted to secure for their efforts enough to sustain life even tolerably and about the only way they could reach this land of promise was to club together, rob themselves of their last pennies to send over here one of their number, who in turn worked for wages and who by the same process of denial sent every cent of his money back home to bring over another. Thus in time, a neighborhood was landed and permitted the privilege of working out a home. I have in mind one such man. He worked almost slavishly as a section hand. Little by little he worked his way westward. Every dollar he earned went back to Ireland. When at last he felt he might be permitted to marry, he added to his long hours of labor on the railroad, the burdens of a garden to raise from it something for the family in order that he might save a few cents more with which later he might buy himself a home. That garden was made along the right of way of the Illinois Central. After a while the farm was bought. But at what a fearful sacrifice of health! From 3 o'clock in the morning until 10 at night! But with the home always possible and always before him, he cheerfully toiled on and on and today the town of Marion is populated with the children of those heroic men and women.

How they loved liberty! And how they loved the country of their adoption! If for a lengthy story of what their love was, you will turn to the records of the War Department, there in blood you will read what the Irishman of Lee county did for that country of his adoption. Read over the Adjutant-General's Illinois reports and find the names of the men who composed the Thirteenth, the Thirty-fourth, the Forty-sixth, the Seventy-fifth, and you will see

what the sons of old Ireland did for the United States and for Lee county!

Marion township has done for the cause of religion what no other township in Lee county has done. Glance at the picture here of their beautiful church, dedicated last summer, and their parsonage and parish hall and see for yourself. And all were paid for by the farmers of that township. Thomas Dwyer, Edward Morrissey, \$1,000 each; the Lallys, the O'Malleys.

#### ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, WALTON

As you enter this beautiful church, the attention is attracted to a marble tablet, 5x5, to the left, facing west, with the names thereon of those who made it possible to build so beautiful a church, parsonage and parish hall.

The community is altogether rural and these contributions are nothing short of wonderful. Father Cullen contributed the tablet in appreciation of his regard for the unusual work done by the congregation.

Following are the names inscribed on the tablet, of those who furnished the funds to erect the church and other buildings: Edward Morrissey, \$1,400; Miss Mary A. Leonard, \$1,400; James Cahill and family, \$1,100; P. D. Fitzpatrick, \$1,000; Thomas Dwyer and mother, \$1,000; Patrick Lally, \$700; Mary, Michael and A. J. O'Malley, \$600; Martin Whalen, \$575; P. A. Morrissey, \$550; J. J. Morrissey, \$530; James McCoy, \$510; James F. Dempsey, \$505; Mrs. Ann O'Malley, \$500; Edward Dempsey, \$500; William Morrissey, \$500; John C. Lally, \$400; James McCaffrey, \$400; Mrs. T. S. Healey, \$350; E. J. Lally, \$300; P. H. McCaffrey, \$300; John Leonard, \$300; P. F. Keane, \$300; John Lally, \$300; Thomas F. McKune, \$300; Charles and Mary Keane, \$300; Miss Rose Lyons, \$250; Thomas and Bridget Morrissey, \$200; Mrs. Kathryn Hoyle, \$200; John H. Dempsey, \$200; Austin O'Malley, \$200; Mrs. J. Convooy, \$200; Thos. Burke, \$150; Rev. T. J. Cullen, \$150; Mrs. Bridget and Frank Finn, \$130; John Blackburn, \$125; Owen Burns, \$125; E. J. O'Malley, \$125; Thomas P. Finn, \$100; James D. Murray, \$100; Joseph Grohens, \$100; Lawrence Dempsey, Sr., \$100; James Canfield, \$100; Peter Campbell, \$100; James Harvey, \$100; M. J. Fielding, \$100; Thos. Halligan, \$100; Mrs. C. F. Welty, \$100; Michael O'Malley, \$100; Wm. Blackburn, \$100; Henry and Edward Ullrich, \$100; John A. Greenwalt, \$100; William McCoy, \$50; Mrs. E. Schmidt, \$50; Mrs. Hugh McGuirk, \$50; E. H. Jones,





ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, WALTON



\$50; Sarah McCoy, \$50; P. H. Dumphy, \$50; Carl Acker, \$50; Henry O'Hare, \$50; John Finn, \$50; August Grohens, \$50; Edward Campbell, \$50; Thomas Blackburn, \$50; B. J. Bushman, \$40; Anton Duvier, \$30; Charles McCoy, \$25; Patrick Patterly \$25; George Healy, \$25; George Welty, \$25; D. T. Fitzpatrick, \$25; Thomas McCoy, \$25; Frank McCoy, \$25; A. M. Head, \$25; Bernard Feely, \$25; John Dumphy, \$25.

The rectory is 30x34 feet, of red pressed brick, two stories, basement and attic, heated by hot-air furnace. Water from a large tank in the attic is afforded all over the house, and a splendid sewage disposal system has been supplied.

The furniture is solid mahogany of the Mission style. Hardwood floors have been laid throughout. The cost was \$8,500.

The church is of the Spanish Mission style, 40x80 feet, with belfry. It is made of red pressed brick. The pews, of massive dark oak, will hold 346 people.

Steam is the heating medium. The altars and communion rail are of white marble. Over the sanctuary are ten Roman arches, the main ones, over the altars, rest on massive pillars. The vestry is of brick and may be used as a chapel.

The main altar was contributed by Miss Mary Ann Leonard; the Virgin's altar by Patrick, Thomas, Bridget and John Morrissey; the St. Joseph's altar by Patrick and John Lally; the communion rail by William Morrissey. The contributions by the Morrisseys make \$3,200. The sanctuary lamp was the gift of the Cahill sisters. The large candlesticks were given by Martin Whalen; the ostensorium by Mrs. Mary O'Malley; the three marble crucifixes for the altars by Mrs. Bridget Finn.

In 1854 a petition was presented to the board of supervisors, to organize a new township out of what then composed Amboy and Hamilton. The petition was granted and the first town meeting was held in April, 1855.

The first supervisor was Alfred Wolcott; first assessor was Sherman W. Caldwell; first justices of the peace, Abram Morrison and A. S. Phillips; first town clerk, Simon Dykman; first collector, David Morrison.

In 1838 W. H. Blair located on section 24. In 1841 J. C. Haley, a native of Pennsylvania, settled there. In 1846 R. Scott, a native of Scotland, settled on section 15.

When the Kinyon road promised to go through Marion township, its managers desired the township to bond itself for \$50,000; but the proposition was defeated almost unanimously. But the

road was built just the same; and largely through the influence of Messrs. McCrystal, Conderman and Jones, the station was located about in the center of the township, and it was named Walton, and it is the only station in the township.

Today, besides the beautiful Catholic church, the parsonage, and the parish hall, there is one general store, a blacksmith shop, an agricultural implement store and warehouse and a grain elevator which does a very large business, the average amount of grain being about two hundred thousand bushels per annum, shipped from the elevator. Marion raises a great deal of live stock.

Some of the biggest men of Lee county in all lines of endeavor have come from Marion township. Mr. Hiram A. Brooks, now of Dixon, one of the ablest lawyers and one of the best trial lawyers of the state, was born there and so was his brother and partner, Clarence C. Brooks. Charles B. Morrison, at one time United States district attorney for the Chicago district, was raised there. Edward and Charles Brewster, two of Dixon's able lawyers, were born and raised there. County Judge Robert H. Scott is a Marion boy, born and raised there, and son of a pioneer. George O'Malley, the clothing merchant, and Charles E. Slain, of the undertaking establishment of Jones & Slain, are Marion boys. Thus all over Lee county the boys from Marion have rendered a good account of the stock which made it the rich and populous township that it is.

Marion has had its tragedies of the air and of the earth. The tornado of 1860 passed right through the middle in its eastward race through the county. It picked up here and there a few little items of lumber, but no damage to speak of was done. In the year 1912, however, a windstorm came along which blew down the passenger station, and nearly every other building in Walton.

In the early part of January, 1870, an unfortunate tragedy occurred which shocked the countryside. Francis Marion Spangler shot and killed one Timothy Keane. Both were prosperous farmers and residents of Marion and both were men of high standing in the community. It seems Keane's cattle broke into Spangler's field. The latter shut them up and kept them until Keane came over and demanded their release. In anger hot words passed and Keane then attempted to drive them away. Spangler then shot and killed Keane with a gun, after which he surrendered himself to the authorities in Amboy and was brought to jail.

This became one of the most famous trials in the history of Lee county. Leonard Swett of Chicago defended Spangler and after a terrific battle, he succeeded in getting an acquittal for his client.



## CHAPTER XXVIII

### MAY TOWNSHIP

Still sojourning within the confines comprehended in old Inlet precinct, we enter the township of May, whose history is preserved to us with considerable volume and accuracy.

The first settlers of May were compelled to go to Inlet to vote at the house of Joseph Sawyer, which was the polling place. May did not become a separate polling place until the year 1843.

The first settler was a man named Joseph Bay, who settled on section 13. The next settler was Ira Axtel, who settled the same year on section 6. So far I have been unable to ascertain the exact dates of their settlement, but it was in the early thirties.

The town was named May in honor of Captain May, an American officer, who fell in the battle of Palo Alto.

Of those who came in 1840 were William Dolan, who settled on section 14; Martin McGowan, J. Moran and John Darcy, who took up their claims on 14 and 23.

In 1843 May was made a separate precinct, and in 1845 the land was surveyed by the Government and thrown into market.

The old Peoria road from Dixon's Ferry went through this township, which joins Marion on the south, and along the same, at the residence of Mr. Morrison, a postoffice was established which was called May Hill.

As I have said, May was made an independent voting precinct in 1843. In seventeen years, 1860, she had 120 votes, yet May township furnished forty-seven men to aid in the suppression of the rebellion. Company F, of the Seventy-fifth Illinois Infantry, was recruited almost exclusively from this little township.

Patrick Riley, one of May's best citizens, settled in that township in the year 1848, on section 23. He was a hard working, frugal man and in time he had accumulated a fortune. In 1860 his health began to fail, and, notwithstanding all his efforts to restore it, in 1868 he died. Ambitious to do good to less fortunate people, who might be assisted by educational advantages, he left 120 acres

to be enjoyed by his wife during life, then Martin McGowan and Patrick McCann in trust for the purposes of constructing an academy in Maytown. These trustees sold the 120 acres left them and set to work and executed their trust faithfully by beginning its construction on a piece of land belonging to the estate, on the old Peoria stage road, eight miles from Amboy. The main building was 30x48. The L was 16x18 feet and the entire structure was twenty feet in height. The school was divided into several compartments. On the first floor were the school rooms, music room, parlor, sitting room, dining room and kitchen. On the second floor was the chapel, beautifully finished with a vaulted roof. The rest of the upper floor was divided into sleeping rooms, occupied by pupils who boarded at the academy. The building was surmounted by an observatory, from which a splendid view of the surrounding country was had. Young ladies alone were received as boarders, but boys were received as day scholars. Six sisters of the Benedictine order taught the various grades in the common branches and in addition taught music, drawing, French and German.

In September, 1880, the academy was dedicated and for a long while the school was crowded with pupils. But after about ten years of happy successes, the attendance fell off until it was considered best to abandon it altogether. In 1895 the property was sold and the old academy was torn down.

The advantages to the township were immeasurable and May township as an educational center ranked very high. It seems too bad that so useful an institution should decline, but then in earthly affairs we must accept the inevitable. Like Lée Center, rivals attracted the children. As boys and girls read about the larger schools, like children the world over, they felt that the little school was not big enough for them and like the old Lee Center school it dropped out of existence peacefully and quietly, though leaving behind memories never to be effaced by the most vigorous workings of time. The spot was beautiful. The teachers were of the very highest class and all the conditions were ideal. It does seem too bad that idealism cannot fight its way against the intensely practical institutions of today.

The old state railroad, which was graded through May township, caught many a poor settler. James Darcy was one of them. He worked on the grade in 1840, for which labor he was paid in worthless scrip, issued by a so-called banker of La Salle, named A. H. Bongs. Yet in the face of his early adversities, Mr. Darcy accumulated a handsome fortune.

Through the machinations of interested parties, the stage road was changed and the May Hill postoffice was shifted to the residence of Daniel Beard. In 1850 William Dolan laid the matter before the then Postmaster-General, and three months afterwards the route was changed again and the postoffice restored to its former location. A Mr. Hubbard then was appointed postmaster, which position he held continuously until the railroad was continued into Sublette and the postoffice was removed to that place.

In the year 1850 the township was organized by Joseph Crawford, Harvey Morgan and Lorenzo Wood, county commissioners.

For a time, May township people had many good reasons to expect the Illinois Central railroad would run through the town. In fact, the old grade, made many years before the road was built, was made through May township, running southerly past the academy. The same grade, to be seen today just outside of Dixon, was part of the same survey and fared as the one which was made through May.

The Anti Claim Jumping Association was very strong in May township. Its membership extended from May through Amboy over into Lee Center and the first call for action, almost, was made to its members to redress a wrong done in the township of May.

A man named Hiram Anderson had made a claim. Anderson offended a neighbor, who, representing himself to be the owner, in turn went to Dixon and sold the claim to Bull, who dealt in claims once in a while. Bull it seems, as I get the story from May, also drove stage down the old Peoria road.

When Anderson found that his claim had not only been sold out from under him, but that Bull actually had stepped over to the land office and entered it from the Government and received his receiver's receipt, Anderson notified the committee. A meeting of the "Palestine Grove Minutemen," as the association was called, met in the barn of Mr. Fessenden, over in Sublette, and passed the usual set of resolutions demanding its return.

The entire association nearly, went to Dixon. Most of them waited in the timber south of town while Chester Badger and a Mr. Baird went to the Western tavern, where Bull was stopping, to demand the return of the claim. Bull was loaded in a wagon and started to jail; but explanations followed; Bull conveyed the claim to Anderson; the neighbor gave his note for what he got. Anderson secured the \$1.25 per acre which Bull had paid, and thus a bad job was straightened out. If it had not been adjusted the



angry members would have seized Bull and they would have secured satisfaction. There was a case, which if sent to the courts, never would have been adjusted properly. Besides much money in lawyers' fees would have been spent. This committee settled it fairly, expeditiously and without expense. Border committees generally are needed.

Religious influences always have had a strong foothold in May. Not only was the academy dominated by the refining and enabling influences of religion, through the efforts of a noble company of Sisters of the Benedictine order, but the laity at large over the town actively supported the interest of the church.

The first schoolhouse in the township was erected on section 3 and for a time it was used by the Catholic church for its services. A short time after the war, the German Catholics built a church on the east side of the township, which was named St. Mary's. At about the same time the Irish members of the Catholic church built a church on the west side of the township, which cost approximately nine thousand dollars. It surpassed any church building in that part of the county for many years.

Subsequently, however, the building of the beautiful Catholic church at Sublette, by all odds the most beautiful and costly church in Lee county, drew to it most of the May Germans and the May church was permitted to remain unoccupied. The west side church has prospered almost phenomenally. A parish house for fairs and entertainments and a handsome parsonage have been added. As though to contribute its mite, Nature herself furnishes with almost no expense natural gas which is piped to the surface and into the buildings and there you will find the most beautiful illumination to be found in Lee county. Rev. Father Porcella enjoys the love of one of the very large parishes of the county.

The farmers of May generally are men of large means, devoted to the best methods of soil culture and to the raising of live stock, pure bred. In fact May leads the county in its numbers of fine stock raisers. Among those who have very choice herds are McLaughlin brothers, James and Charles, who own perhaps the best herd of Poland China hogs in Lee county. At the fairs of last fall, they took nearly every blue ribbon offered by the managements. They also own a splendid herd of shorthorn cattle. Mr. Peter J. Streit, the noted Duroc Jersey hog raiser, by the exercise of careful selection and judicious mating and pruning, has assembled what is regarded as one of the choicest herds in the state. His annual sales are regarded now as famous events in Duroc annals.



Mr. Streit also has the best stables of Morgan horses in Northern Illinois. Last fall nothing was able to stand before them at the fairs.

William J. Sharkey, James Buckley and Bernard Dorsey also have fine herds of the popular Duroc swine.

Michael Leffelman owns a herd of Chester White hogs, which for a long while has attracted attention. In strong competition, Mr. Leffelman, at the fairs, has taken every one of the blue ribbons.

One feature of Maytown has been made especially noticeable to the writer. For several years the children of James Buckley, especially William, and the children of William J. Sharkey have been correspondents for the Weekly Citizen, and in justice to those young people, children I might say, I must say their letters are things of infinite delight to me. Invariably they are filled with sparkling wit and humor that would bring laughter from a cake of ice. Maytown children are exceptionally bright youngsters.

The children of May have given good accounts of themselves wherever they have cast their lot. Daniel E. Shanahan, of Chicago, Representative in the Legislature and the power in republican politics for many years, behind the throne, was born and raised in old May township. W. J. McGuire, of Peoria, is another worthy son of the same township. In politics he has won fame and in business he has won success. Two other young men, lawyers, are rapidly going forward to the same splendid goal—James Dorsey and John M. Buckley, another son of my old friend, James Buckley.

Normally, May is democratic; but the voters of May never permit themselves to be influenced by party affiliations in township matters. Mr. Buckley is a republican, yet his democratic neighbors have elected him supervisor for years.

Maytown people are hospitable people; notably so. Nobody can call at the home of a man from May and leave before he takes a meal. I have seen this fact demonstrated so many times that very naturally my heart has been drawn towards the people of good old May.

Names of May's earlier settlers: Joseph Bay; Ira Axtel; William Dolan, one of the most prominent of May's citizens, 1840; Martin McGowan, J. Moran and John Darcy, 1840; Patrick McCann, who came with the Illinois Central grade into the county, 1853; Andrew Kessler, 1850; Joseph G. Hall, 1857; George Ash, 1857; Silas W. Avery, 1857; Hugh Fitzpatrick, 1857; Michael Harvey, 1852.

This famous trial was brought once more into the public eye so late as the month of November, 1913, when through Attorney John P. Devine, the old Keane farm, a beautiful piece of ground, was sold in order that it might be divided among the heirs who all these years had clung to the old home. Attorney Albert H. Hanneken, a special master in chancery, conducted the sale and the land was struck off and sold to Philip Keane, one of the heirs, for \$122 per acre.

## CHAPTER XXIX

### MELUGIN'S GROVE TOWNSHIP

The first settlements of this county were made in or on the fringe of groves, hence we find Melugin's Grove, Guthrie's Grove, Franklin Grove, Inlet Grove, Twin Grove, Paw Paw Grove, Palestine Grove, Gap Grove, etc., and for that same reason the sections of Lee county dotted with groves were settled long years before the beautiful prairie country which generally offered much better soil. The wealth of timber for fuel of course was the first consideration of the settler and so the groves were selected.

The Black Hawk war, which brought thousands of men from all over the state to Lee county, then in Jo Daviess county, made strong friendships for the locality and for John Dixon. Among the number were two men who had much to do with Melugin's Grove, Zachariah Melugin and his brother-in-law, John K. Robison.

Through the influence of Mr. Dixon, Zachariah Melugin settled at the grove subsequently given his name and that point became the second in Lee county to be settled.

In 1832 Mr. Melugin lived near Springfield. When the Black Hawk war broke out he was on Rock island and on the arrival of the troops at the mouth of Rock river, he enlisted. The country around Dixon's ferry pleased him so well that after settling his affairs back at Springfield, he returned to Dixon's ferry in 1833.

Believing the new stage road between Galena and Chicago would open many possibilities, Mr. Melugin, at the suggestion of Mr. Dixon, selected the grove, twenty miles distant, for a stage station, and when on Jan. 1, 1834, the first stage traveled the route, Mr. Melugin took passage and stopped off at the grove and built his log cabin on what afterwards became the northeast quarter of section 4. The Indians were numerous but friendly, and without molestation, he kept house all alone the first winter. The long evenings were generally spent visiting with the Indians who called.

In the spring his sister, Mary, came from Sangamon county and lived with him until Oct. 12, 1834, when, at Ottawa, he was married to Mary Ross, of Ross's Grove, DeKalb county. During that summer of 1834, Miss Melugin was alone many days, in the midst of Indians who dubbed her a "brave squaw." The spring from which water was procured for the stage house was eighty rods away in the timber, but never was she annoyed by Indians. That spring played an important part in another particular. There were no churns, so in order to be busy when going to the spring, the empty pail was balanced on her head while with both hands the cream was shaken in a coffee pot until the butter "came."

During this summer Miss Melugin paid a visit to Mrs. Dixon at Dixon's Ferry. There she met John K. Robison. He too had served in the Black Hawk war, from Hancock county, although he enlisted at the mouth of Rock river, and at the close of the war he remained with the Dixon family in the capacity of teacher for the children. On Sept. 10, 1835, Miss Melugin and Mr. Robison were married at the home of Zachariah Melugin, by the Reverend Harris, a Methodist circuit rider, and that was the first wedding ceremony performed at Melugin's Grove.

Mr. Robison built his house half a mile from Melugin's, of unhewed logs, chinked with pieces of wood and plastered over with a mortar made of clay. The shakes used for a roof were made of split trees, the same as the floor. The shelves for pans and dishes in this house were made by boring holes in the logs, driving in long pins and laying a board across the pins.

In this house the menage was exactly as in every other pioneer cabin. The fireplace warmed the room and served for a cooking stove; bread was baked in iron kettles with iron covers, the kettle being placed in one side of the fireplace and covered with coals and hot ashes; potatoes were roasted also in those same ashes. Gourds played a very prominent part in the array of cooking utensils. They were used for baskets, basins, cups, dippers, soap dishes, etc. Hollow trees, sawed, were used for well curbs, beehives and storage receptacles for housing grain. Troughs hollowed from trees were used to contain sugar sap, and during a rain storm they were used to catch water under the eaves and to store it, and they were used for milk pans. Sometimes the troughs were used as cradles to rock the babies to sleep. Butter bowls, ladles, rolling pins, brooms, etc., were made by the husband from wood with implements of the rudest sort. So, too, the husband mended his own harness and cobbled the household shoes. In the absence of clocks and watches



certain marks on the doors or side of the house indicated the time of day and the position of the Big Dipper indicated the same by night. The well or the water trough reflected the features for hair-dressing and shaving, and with but one change of clothing for each, the same was washed and ironed while the child slept. And such indeed was the house and the manner of housekeeping with that same John K. and Mrs. Robison.

Brooms in those days were made from young hickory trees about three inches through, peeling off the bark, then with pocket knife the men-folks commenced on the end of the stick intended for the brush part and peeled the stick in narrow strips or splints about a sixteenth of an inch thick and about eighteen inches long. The heart of the stick would not peel and that was cut off, leaving a stick about three inches long in the center of these splints. The splints being dropped back over this stick they then commenced on the handle end and stripped splints toward those already made, and long enough to cover them. When the stick was stripped, the splints were all tied together around the stick left in the center of the splints first stripped, and the remainder of the handle was then stripped to complete the broom.

Flint and steel were used to kindle fire, but "borrowing fire" when learned, was much more common and much easier, when there were neighbors from whom to borrow.

The nearest grain and live stock market for Melugin was Chicago and to go and come seldom took less than seven days. In a muddy season, the time consumed was more.

The nearest gristmill then was Green's mill near Ottawa. A woolen mill there scutched and carded wool into rolls fit for spinning back at home by the women.

John K. Robison brought to the grove from Nauvoo the first currant bushes; he carried them on horseback. The fashion of the day was for husband and wife to ride the same horse when they went a distance together, the man sitting ahead and the wife behind.

Mr. Robison was not only the first teacher in Lee county, both at Dixon and Melugin, but he was the first justice of the peace at Melugin. He taught school in his own house until the first school-house was built, in 1837; at that time he had eight pupils.

The first tailor to locate at Melugin was Henry Vroman. The first postmaster was Abram V. Christeance; he also was first constable. Charles Morgan and son were the first merchants, and kept millinery. Doctor Bissell was the first physician. Cornelius

Christeance was the first white child born, John Melugin and W. W. Gilmore followed; all born in the year 1835.

Church services were held at private houses when the circuit rider appeared, until church buildings or schoolhouses were built. In the Grove, the first church to be organized was the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1837, at the house of Melugin, and the first Sunday school to be organized was in 1847 or 1848, by Reverend Haney of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Zachariah Melugin being from Sangamon county and in the Black Hawk war, became intimately acquainted with Abraham Lincoln, and when Mr. Melugin returned there, Lincoln visited him at his father's home.

So near as I can learn, A. V. Christeance was the next settler here at Melugin. He took a claim in 1835, the month of June, on the south side of the stage road and used his house as a tavern. He and Mrs. Christeance traveled with an ox team from Schenectady county, New York. By the time they reached Melugin, Mrs. Christeance was so tired she declared she would go no further. That spot happened to be the Grove. Their son, Cornelius, born in 1835, was the first white child born there.

Indians were numerous and many times they covered the floor of the tavern, sleeping. The prophet, Joe Smith, who seems to have been a familiar figure in Lee county history, also stopped there upon one occasion.

Although Mr. Christeance would be gone a week or ten days at a time, to market, in Chicago, Mrs. Christeance never was molested by Indians nor by members of the "Banditti of the Prairie," who, then unknown, stopped many times at their tavern.

John Gilmore came along at about the same time as Mr. Guthrie, in 1834. These gentlemen selected their claims and returned, Mr. Gilmore for his family and Mr. Guthrie to settle business affairs. Mr. Gilmore paid Melugin \$50 for part of his claim, the northeast quarter of section 3, while Guthrie took up a claim further east, known as Guthrie's Grove and later as Little Melugin Grove.

The trip of the Gilmore family was almost identical with that of the Christeance family, only the Gilmores came west in a wagon drawn by horses. About three miles east from Melugin's house, the horses gave out; they could travel no further. It was June 4, 1835. Mrs. Gilmore and her five children had been riding; Mr. Gilmore and Mr. Guthrie had been walking beside the team. Rain had been falling steadily all day. After a consultation it was

decided that Mr. and Mrs. Gilmore and the children should push forward to Melugin's house, three miles west. Mr. Guthrie remained with the team. Late that night the Melugin house was reached by the tired and bedraggled Gilmores. The following day help was sent back to Guthrie and he and the team were conveyed easily to the Melugin home. Mr. Guthrie too had been a Black Hawk soldier.

Very soon Mr. Gilmore had built a log cabin twelve feet square, with a puncheon floor, shakes for a roof, held in place by weight poles. A stick-and-mud fireplace was added as well as a door, and the Gilmores were permanent, and in this house W. W. Gilmore was born Nov. 8, 1835.

The only work to be had at that time was twenty miles away at Ross Grove in DeKalb county and the payment for it was made in provisions. To this point then Mr. Gilmore and William Guthrie walked forth and back; the first of the week eastward to work; Saturday night backward with their wages on their shoulders.

During one of these absences that winter, near Christmas, the mud and stick chimney took fire and if permitted to run would consume the house very soon. In her stocking feet Mrs. Gilmore rushed to and from the now frozen spring, twenty rods away, carrying water; but she made no headway. The nine-year-old son, A. P. Gilmore, was sent a mile distant through the woods, at midnight, to the house of Mr. Christeance for help. The fire was put out, but the damage to the building had been considerable. That perilous night was stormy and bitter cold, but the pioneer woman of Lee county feared nothing.

Later Mr. Gilmore added to his house and opened a tavern and stage house. All who did so prospered, and Mr. Gilmore was no exception to the rule. The Galena-Chicago highway became a thoroughfare as important for those days as the great Northwestern is today for our community.

In the fall of 1836 William Guthrie was married to Miss Ross of Ross Grove, where he had worked most of the winter before. Mr. Gilmore made a great event of it for his old friend Guthrie. Mr. Gilmore hooked up his best yoke of oxen, took his wife and the younger children, Mr. Guthrie and two lady friends and by constant urging the oxen made the trip that day. The Rosses were great people in those days and Mr. Guthrie made a great catch, and so that wedding day was made one of the greatest days the township of Paw Paw in DeKalb county ever saw.

Troy Grove was a place of consequence those days and it was the custom at times to go there for provisions. On one of those



trips Mr. Gilmore met a Methodist preacher named Lummary. The latter was invited to come to Melugin Grove and hold a meeting. Accordingly in six weeks, the succeeding round of the circuit, the preacher came and held services in the Gilmore cabin, which every soul at Melugin attended and still there was room to spare. A church and a class were organized and ever since that early date the church and the class have continued without interruption.

Among those early settlers was O. P. Johnson, who located at the west end of the grove and opened a tavern. He married Elizabeth Ross, one of the historic Ross family of DeKalb county.

Ezra Berry was another of the 1835 pioneers to settle at the grove. He married Miss Eleanor Melugin, sister of Zachariah.

Some have said the first schoolhouse was built on the farm of Mr. Christeance in 1838, but investigation has proved conclusively the year was 1837, and that Zachariah Melugin was the first teacher succeeding Mr. Robison. Mr. Melugin was a man of superior intellect and ability. So early as the year 1836 or 1837 he composed a poem published in the Rock River Register, the first paper published on Rock river. He died in 1842 and his widow married William Atkinson.

The first funeral in Brooklyn township, I believe, was that of a Mr. Little, a Scotchman, whose body was the first to be buried in the cemetery.

Melugin's Grove became, for a little place, a place of importance. A Masonic lodge was organized at the house of O. P. Johnson, in 1858, of which John C. Corbus was the first master; John Gilmore was the first senior warden; S. H. Finley, first junior warden; Jonathan N. Hyde, senior deacon; Oliver P. Johnson, junior deacon; J. R. Bisbee, secretary; William Guthrie, treasurer; and Robert Ritchie, tyler.

In those halcyon days Judge R. S. Farrand taught school at Melugin and it was from Melugin that he came to Dixon to act as deputy sheriff under Jonathan N. Hills, elected from Melugin. Jonathan N. Hyde was elected clerk of the circuit court from Melugin; and Melugin, under Doctor Corbus and others of the old guard, became master of the political game and bossed county politics more or less.

Until 1873 Melugin's Grove prospered. Then the Kinyon railroad went through Brooklyn township, about a mile to the south, and Joel Compton platted the town of Compton, a mile away, and all the glamour and tradition of the old grove and the stage route



and stage coach days disappeared. One by one the Grove people moved over to the railroad and Compton. One by one the buildings were moved over to Compton. Love for the old place was strong and the ties were hard to break, but the last had to give way, and to this day the entire population of prosperous Compton are descendants of the old Melugin's Grove stock, and so closely intermarried that nearly every family is related to every other family. The sturdy old times established fortunes which the younger ones of today are enjoying.

Compton today is a bright, wide-awake, beautifully built and more beautifully kept little village of about three hundred and fifty people. It seems as though every resident of the place owns an automobile. It contains a garage, 80 feet long and 40 feet wide, operated by Sam Argraves, a son of one of the old settlers. There is scarcely an hour of the day this garage is not filled. There is not a town lot but has its cement sidewalk. The Illinois Northern Utilities gives it day and night electric light and power service.

Beautiful homes predominate. It supports one of the best hotels in the state, under the management of Mr. Card. The Compton Mercantile Company store, owned by Joseph Kaufman, Edward A. Bennett and John L. Clapp, is one of the commodious stores of the county. It carries a big stock and transacts an enormous annual business.

John Archer, just across the way, enjoys a splendid business.

W. H. Dishong is the hardware man. H. A. Bernardin has as fine a furniture store as you will find outside of a big city.

The First National Bank enjoys a splendid business.

But the important enterprise of Compton is the Chandler Hospital. This institution, built by a young physician named Dr. A. W. Chandler, has sprung into national fame, and Doctor Chandler has become one of the most noted surgeons in the country. Patients from the Atlantic to the Pacific have come to the Chandler Hospital for treatment. In a little town, with but one railroad, Doctor Chandler, by sheer ability, has made himself and his hospital famous. In his work, Mrs. Chandler has been a tremendous help. She is one of the most superior women one can find. When in his earlier years it became necessary to have the services of one skillful and helpful enough to administer anesthetics, Mrs. Chandler stepped into the breach and supplied the Doctor's greatest need. As a surgeon's support and counselor, Mrs. Chandler has no superior. More delightful, intellectual, attractive and companionable people than Doctor and Mrs. Chandler are not to be found.

Recently they purchased in Dixon one of the most beautiful homes in Lee county, situated on the bank of Rock river. Here during the summer months they delight in entertaining their friends.

Chandler Hospital is one of the big institutions of Lee county, and for successful amelioration of human suffering it outranks any institution in the land. The institution has a reputation extending far and wide. Nothing in Lee county has so extensive a reputation and it is doubtful if any other spot in northern Illinois is as well known.

Compton and West Brooklyn are splendid grain markets and in both places at least 750,000 bushels of grain are marketed annually.

When in 1873 the Kinyon road was built through Brooklyn township, the people voted to bond the town for \$50,000 to help build it. The bonds were issued and sold, and by reason of non-performance of promises made by promoters of the road, payment of the bonds was contested for years; but in the end the courts ruled for the bonds and, with a compromise, they were paid.

Between West Brooklyn platted on section 8 and Compton platted on section 11 a fierce rivalry existed from the first and only until recent years has the old feud died down. Compton was platted by Joel Compton on his farm. West Brooklyn was platted by Demas L. Harris, O. P. Johnson and R. N. Woods. Believing that the factional warfare would ruin both places, Andrew J. Carnahan conceived the plan of building on his farm, the northeast quarter of section 9, midway between the rivals, another town and on June 19, 1873, he platted Carnahan and built thereon a grain elevator. But the other two places prospered and survived and after serious financial losses, Mr. Carnahan abandoned his plat. The big elevator, unused, stands today, a monument to recall the fiercest town site fights which Lee county ever witnessed. The first church, Methodist, was organized in 1837 at the house of Zachariah Melugin and Rev. S. R. Beggs became the first pastor, a circuit rider. Until about the year 1850, church services were held in the school-house; then a church was built. Later, in 1860, another building was erected and that was moved to Compton, and considerably enlarged, is used today.

The United Brethren occupy the other church.

There is a Masonic lodge in Compton.

Mr. John W. Banks, the supervisor of Brooklyn, operates the only grain elevator in Compton. The place is a famous grain center



THE STAND PIPE, COMPTON



CHANDLER HOSPITAL, COMPTON





and Mr. Banks has marketed as high as 400,000 bushels of grain in a year.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy is the only road running through Compton. For a time it was expected the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul would extend its north and south branch through Compton, but for reasons best known to railroads, it ran a mile to the east and established the Roxbury station and built an elevator. There are no stores in Roxbury, which is in Wyoming township, but a large amount of grain which found its way to Compton formerly now is marketed at Roxbury.

Only recently, Compton installed a complete water and sewer system. Its fire protection facilities are as nearly perfect as possible. The Yocum telephone system has its central office in Compton.

Clemons & Clemons do a fine business in blacksmithing and wagon making and general repairing.

Mr. Harvey A. Cook tells me as high as forty thousand dollars has been received by the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy road at that station for freight in a year.

Compton and West Brooklyn are in the midst of one of the best of farming sections. Lands run in value about two hundred dollars per acre. There is a voting precinct at each place. West Brooklyn is heavily democratic, while Compton is largely progressive, with republicans and democrats running along close together. When Mr. Compton platted this village, he reserved a block of ground for park purposes which he planted to trees. In this he erected a pagoda and there the Compton band gives summer concerts.

The residences are kept up beautifully and there are many of them. Doctor Carnahan, the venerable first physician of the place, still resides at Compton, retired. Back in the dawn of things at Melugin Grove he practiced.

Many retired farmers live there; while others have gone to Dixon, others decline to break old home ties, and all of them are rich.

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## WEST BROOKLYN

By Oliver L. Gehant

The village of West Brooklyn was laid out and platted in the month of August, 1872, on lands belonging to Oliver P. Johnson.

Demas L. Harris and Reuben N. Woods. These three gentlemen were large land owners in the west side of Brooklyn township, hence the origin of the name, West Brooklyn.

At the time the present branch of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy railroad was built through the township, there seems to have existed an agreement between the prominent citizens and land owners of the town of Brooklyn that the station, which was agreed upon with the railroad company was to be located within the township as a part of the consideration of \$50,000 paid through bonds issued by the town in favor of the railroad project. The site of the new village was to be at Modoc, commonly called Carnahan Station, the place being almost, if not exactly, in the center of the township, east and west.

Then, as well as now, officials were sometimes actuated by selfish motives, and the agreement was disregarded. The railroad officials located the station on the site that is now occupied by the village of Compton in the east end of the township. This action was the cause of the founders of West Brooklyn taking the initiative and planning a village to suit their own ideas.

Among the first to engage in the mercantile life of West Brooklyn we find H. H. Carnahan, who conducted a general store on the corner of Second and Woods streets, in connection with the post-office. Hoerner Brothers, later succeeded by William Hoerner, engaged in the general merchandise business on the corner of Second and Johnson streets, and A. Nichols & Sons soon followed in the same business on the south side of Johnson street, between First and Second streets. Dr. G. F. Schrieber of Chicago, located in the new town shortly after its establishment and remained a resident of the village for many years. Daniel Barr was put in charge of the grain elevator erected by the West Andrus & Co. of Chicago, being succeeded after a few years by George McCormick. The latter continued in this occupation until about twelve years ago, when C. F. Guffin, one of the leading business men of the town today, took charge of the business.

Messrs. Albert Bieschke, Sr., and Joseph Kesel, both of Chicago, soon established shoe shops in West Brooklyn. Mr. Kesel retired from business many years ago, but Mr. Bieschke is still in the same occupation at the old stand built by him thirty-eight years ago. Gruss Brothers, after a few years, followed and engaged in the manufacture of wagons and buggies in connection with their general blacksmith shop. They succeeded Thebiay Brothers and were in turn succeeded by Martin Gruss, one of the firm. Mrs.

Cheney was the first to operate a hotel in the new town, her first location being on the corner of First and Water streets. Wesley Hyde succeeded Mrs. Cheney, but after conducting the business for a time sold out to Mrs. Henry Wigum. She continued in the hotel until her death, when Mrs. Katie Tressler, her oldest daughter, became proprietor, and under her management the place soon enjoyed a very good patronage. She erected the excellent Hotel Tressler, which adorns the corner of Second and Johnson streets, and which is recognized by the traveling public as among the best equipped hotels in the county.

Of the early men who were identified with the up-building of West Brooklyn, very few are still with us. Albert Bieschke, Sr., and Martin Gruss appear to be the only survivors. The founders of the village, Messrs. Johnson, Harris and Woods, have long since passed away. Dr. G. F. Schrieber removed to Chicago about twenty years ago and was succeeded by our very efficient physician and surgeon, Dr. E. C. White. He has also served in the capacity of postmaster for the past sixteen years. John Gruss, general blacksmith, returned to Chicago, where he too passed to the Great Beyond. Herman Knauer has been in charge of the local shop for a number of years and under his management an up-to-date equipment has been installed and first-class workmanship is turned out. H. H. Carnahan discontinued the store thirty years ago and removed to Iowa and engaged in farming.

Messrs. A. Nichols & Sons disposed of their mercantile interests about the same time to Derr Brothers, and then moved to Minneapolis, Minnesota, where they engaged in the wholesale industry. Derr Brothers quit business at this place some twelve years ago. Joseph Kesel, one of the pioneer settlers, is residing at Aurora. Daniel Barr died about twenty-five years ago, while his successor, George McCormick, died five years ago at his home in Mendota, where he moved after retiring from the grain business here. C. L. Smith, painter and decorator and one of the early settlers, passed to his reward within the past year. William Hoerner sold out his mercantile business twenty years ago and, together with his family, moved to Mendota. He was succeeded by Henry F. Gehant of Viola township, in September, 1893.

From this date a new epoch for West Brooklyn was soon to be realized. This young farmer, filled with zeal and ambition to do and to dare, began to take the necessary steps to inaugurate a movement which was intended to promote better conditions commercially and socially in this village, which had after nearly twenty



years existence, less than one hundred and twenty-five inhabitants. He established up-to-date business methods at the outset, and the best merchandise that money could purchase was placed upon his shelves. A good, live advertising medium, The West Brooklyn News, was founded by him and a new era for the town inaugurated. Through his energy and untiring efforts the village was incorporated under the laws of Illinois, in September, 1894. The blind pigs, which had thrived uninterrupted for years, to the annoyance of the county court and the disgust of the law-abiding citizens of the village, were wiped out. The celebrated Richelieu was closed and law and order established. From that time West Brooklyn has taken her place in the front ranks of the municipalities of Lee county.

Henry F. Gehant was the first mayor of the new incorporation, continuing in that capacity for six years. O. P. Johnson was the second mayor, serving for two years and was succeeded by Henry F. Gehant, who served six years more or twelve years in all. F. D. Gehant followed his cousin into the mayor's chair and was at the head of village affairs for four years. F. W. Meyer, our present mayor, is serving his second year and is the successor of Mr. Gehant. At the conclusion of Mr. Meyer's administration, West Brooklyn will have been incorporated twenty years.

In the meantime two grain elevators had been erected to care for the vast harvests each year in the vicinity. Both original structures were burned to the ground, but were rebuilt at once. One is owned and operated at the present time by Charles F. Guffin, while the other is owned by the Farmers Elevator Company, a corporation consisting of the farmers of the vicinity. This corporation has a capital of \$15,000 and has been in existence since Dec. 3, 1907.

The village has a prosperous banking institution known as the Henry F. Gehant Banking Company, founded June 1, 1897, by Henry F. Gehant. At that time it boasted a capital of \$10,000 and deposits of \$50,000, but during its sixteen years of existence has developed wonderfully and today its statements show \$25,000 capital and deposits ranging from \$150,000 to \$200,000. It not only serves the community in a banking capacity, but meets the demand in matters of insurance, real estate and farm loans.

West Brooklyn has reason to feel proud of its city waterworks plant, which is owned by the municipality and which supplies water to the entire town by means of a system of water mains extending to every part of the village. As a result of the water





South Side Main Street, looking west



Post Office



North Side Johnson Street, looking west



VIEWS OF WEST BROOKLYN



supply there has developed the West Brooklyn Volunteer Fire Department, which utilizes the great water facilities at their disposal to protect the town against the fire fiend. On several occasions they have demonstrated their worth and their ability as firemen and saved the town from total destruction. Cement sidewalks and cross walks are to be found in every part of the town. The remarkable fact concerning all these improvements is that they have been accomplished without the assistance of a corporation tax and still the town is without debt. Not until the present year has a corporation tax been levied in West Brooklyn. The only debt which the people owe is an appreciation to those who have handled its affairs for the past twenty years in such an able manner and nursed its financial income in such a way as to develop the most possible benefits therefrom for the people and municipality in general. Their work has been remarkable when taking into consideration the small income of a few hundred dollars each year with which they had to work. The streets are lighted with electricity, this last convenience coming to the village during the past year, by granting a franchise to the Illinois Northern Utilities Company to enter into the town with its system.

Perhaps two of the best general stores in Lee county are at West Brooklyn. Both have fine stocks and are well kept up by a practical management. F. W. Meyer, who is the proprietor of one of these establishments, came to this village eleven years ago and has been very successful since that time. The other store is conducted by M. J. Bieschke and although a more recent arrival than his competitor, he has proven himself successful. He is a member of the village council and has also served his people as village clerk.

Other mercantile establishments in West Brooklyn are two hardware and implement stores, a meat market, a restaurant, a plumbing shop, a barber shop, a drug store in connection with Dr. E. C. White's office, a cement block factory, a tile factory, a hotel, two saloons, a blacksmith shop, a shoe shop, a garage, a lumber yard, two coal yards, a paint shop, a furniture store, a livery, an opera house, a public school, and two churches.

The schoolhouse was erected in 1874 at a cost of \$1,200. This structure was removed and replaced by a more modern building in 1900. Three teachers are employed and the school has long been recognized as one of the best in Lee county. The first church to be erected in West Brooklyn was the Methodist, about thirty-three years ago. The Catholic Church was built a little later, its congre-

gation consisting of only a few families, as follows: Francis Galisath, Modest and Laurent Gehant, Frank and William Halbmaier, William Hoerner, Xavier Chaon, Joseph Huibsch, Leopold and Joseph E. Henry, Delphan and Polite Bresson, Eugene Vincent, Martin Gruss and Albert Bieschke, Sr. The first church was of simple construction, but as the congregation grew and prospered larger quarters were found necessary. In 1902 they erected a splendid church at a cost of \$18,000. It was 48x98 feet in size and built of brick, with a spire 125 feet high. Just previous to the erection of the church a parsonage was built at a cost of several thousand dollars, so that the congregation had expended at least twenty-five thousand dollars with the completion of the church edifice. In 1908 a disastrous fire swept away the beautiful church, but a new and better structure arose in its place, which today stands as a monument to a faithful congregation. Its interior walls have recently been decorated and new altars have been installed at a cost of \$3,000. The main altar is a donation by the local court of Foresters, who presented the pastor, Rev. M. B. Krug, with a subscription of \$1,000 raised among its members for the purpose of purchasing this altar and having it serve as a gift of the local court of the society to the church.

The Catholic Order of Foresters is the largest and strongest fraternal organization in town, have an up-to-date club room, and an active membership, who are always boosting their order, church and town. During the past year the court reached the one hundred mark in number of initiations and nearly all of these are still loyal Foresters. The Modern Woodmen of America are the next largest organization in town. This society have their own meeting place but no club rooms. The Knights of Columbus, the Woman's Catholic Order of Foresters, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons, and several other societies have many members in West Brooklyn, but none of them have a local organization and the members must go to neighboring towns to attend meetings and to take an active part in the work of their respective orders.

West Brooklyn is a village of music. Many of its people are noted for their musical talents and as a result we find two important organizations having their home in this town. The older of the two, Barr's Orchestra, has been recognized throughout the entire county as the peer of any of its orchestras. During the dancing season they furnish the music for the vast majority of the dances and parties in the vicinity of their home town and are also



in great demand in many parts of the county. The younger organization, the West Brooklyn Cornet Band, has perhaps acquired fame more recently than their sister organization, the orchestra, and is without question the best band in Lee county at this time. Their work the past season has won this title for them and so popular have they become that they now have engagements booked for an entire year ahead. Barr's Orchestra has been in existence for the past ten years while the band was organized in September, 1908.

The F. M. Yocum Telephone Company is another great institution having its main offices in West Brooklyn. This concern, started by the present proprietor, F. M. Yocum, is a great aid towards the up-building and convenience of the community and is of vast good to the village.

West Brooklyn has been visited by several fires since its founding. One of them already has been given considerable mention in telling of the burning of the Catholic Church in 1908. Also the elevators, burned previous to this, have been touched upon. It was during the fire which destroyed the west end elevator, now the Farmers elevator, that the biggest fire and the most destruction resulted. The creamery occupying the west end of the same block was burned during this fire as was likewise a hardware store, a meat market, an implement building and several other minor structures occupying over one-half of the block. It was only the heroic efforts of every man, woman and child in West Brooklyn that conquered the fire and prevented the whole of the town from burning. It was immediately after this terrible fire that the Volunteer Fire Company was organized. The Pollack department store was a later fire but with the efficient work of the fire company was prevented from spreading and confined to the interior of the building where it had started and where it ruined everything. Many minor fires have been recorded, but as they are of little importance we will pass them by. Several residences have been afire at different times and a few have burned to the ground.

West Brooklyn's population is not large, perhaps an estimate of four hundred is too much. However in considering its makeup, it measures up to the standard of the medium-sized towns of our county and were it to be suddenly wiped away, would be missed immensely. It still occupies the territory covered by the original plat of the incorporation and has but a single addition to mention. We refer to the recent Gehant addition on the south side, which was the work of F. D. Gehant, who bought and platted seven acres adjoining and fronting upon Berniger street and where he is erect-

ing the first home, a handsome building, to be occupied by himself and his family as soon as completed. Many of the lots have already been disposed of to people who will erect residences within the next year or two. On this account we can expect a more rapid growth in the number of our population than ever before, for it was not due to undesirable conditions at West Brooklyn that the moderate growth of the past has been made, but because of the fact that there were no lots to be had for the erection of more homes, to permit all those who desired, to come here and settle. Taken in this respect, the new addition is one of the greatest accomplishments that has ever been made for the betterment of West Brooklyn.

## CHAPTER XXX

### NACHUSA TOWNSHIP

Nachusa and China were together for so long a period as China township that to treat of Nachusa alone involves considerable repetition necessarily. But Nachusa history is worth repeating many times. Her pioneers indeed were the salt of the earth and rendered to Lee county services which never grow old with the telling, no matter how crudely told.

Nachusa township was organized in the year 1871 and it was named after the Indian name for Father Dixon.

On Nov. 10, 1870, Col. Alexander P. Dysart presented to the board of supervisors a petition praying that a new township be erected. This petition evoked powerful opposition and a strong remonstrance was presented to the board by Robert L. Irwin of China township (Franklin Grove) against the innovation. Both petition and remonstrance were laid upon the table until the next session of the board, leaving an interim in which to plan the battle royal.

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, 1871, on motion of Supervisor Viele, the petition was taken from the table and the board having heard and considered carefully both sides of the question, ordered that the prayer of the petition be granted, and the township of Nachusa was created. Alexander P. Dysart, who presented the petition, was a hard man to defeat and he proved his generalship in this undertaking by winning handsomely.

The early and easy settlement of Nachusa may be attributed to the circumstance of its proximity to Inlet, imperious Inlet, on the south and Rock river on the north. Messrs. Bennett and Brown from New England were the first settlers of this township, laying claims in section 14, which now belongs to Dixon township by a recent fiat of the supervisors. This was in 1835.

"Squire" Cyrus Chamberlain located in the same year, and in section 19. A Mr. Eldridge came the same year and settled in section 19. So too did a Mr. Hollingshead, who took up his claim in section 19.

Joseph Crawford, so long and honorably known to the people of Lee county, came here in 1835 and for a year he lived with Mr. Hollingshead. From the day Mr. Crawford struck Lee county he kept a diary of his life and its transactions and it is preserved today by his son, J. W. Crawford. It is filled with interesting stories which go to make up the real history of Lee county. After the year spent with Mr. Hollingshead, Mr. Crawford removed to Dixon, and ever afterwards lived in Dixon, becoming its mayor, a member of the Legislature and otherwise one of its leading citizens.

Solomon Shelhamer located in Dixon township in 1837, but after remaining a short while he removed to Nachusa township.

In 1836 John Chamberlain bought the Hollingshead claim, later the Stiles farm. In the same year a Mr. Fisk came out from Pennsylvania, bringing with him a stock of goods with which he began a business in the house formerly occupied by Mr. Hollingshead.

Barclay Smith came in 1836 and bought the lower ferry farm, now in Dixon township, on section 14. Messrs. Crandall, Jerry Murphy and Josiah Moores came a little later.

Down in the southern end of the township, contiguous to the old Chicago stage road, a Mr. Jones came first and located on section 20. In 1838, Dr. Charles Gardner selected a claim in section 20. He returned to his eastern home in Rhode Island and in February, 1839, he returned with his household goods traveling practically the route pursued by Governor Charters. From Newport, Rhode Island, he shipped his goods by sloop to New Orleans. From there they were taken up the Mississippi river by keel boat to the mouth of the Illinois river; thence up that stream to Peru, where they were unloaded and taken by team over to Inlet and the home farm.

Rev. Erastus DeWolf, from Rhode Island, related by marriage to Mrs. Charles Gardner, came about the same time as Doctor Gardner, and bought Mr. Jones' claim. He was an Episcopal minister and he had much to do, I am told, with the erection of the Episcopal church in Lee Center.

Alvah Hale came a little later and settled in section 33. In



1840 John Leake came; two years later his brother, Daniel, came, bringing both families from England, the parental home.

During the years 1839 and 1840 malarial fever and bilious fever prevailed to an alarming extent throughout these new settlements. While it was not necessarily fatal, deaths did occur and it swept nearly everybody into a bed of sickness of varying length. It was the fever and ague with which old books teem.

On section 22, now in Dixon township, the first cemetery was established on the farm of John Hetler. It was abandoned, however, soon after and the later one was established by Josiah Moores on the southeast quarter of section 23, now in Dixon township. Sadly coincident with this location, Mr. Moores was the first to be buried in the new cemetery.

Joseph Brierton came here in 1836. Inasmuch as his claim is now included in Dixon township, it would be better to defer remarks about him for Dixon, although by every association he should be regarded a Nachusa man along with his other neighbors of the kingdom.

Mrs. M. D. Gilman in speaking of the kingdom once bearing the prefix smelling of the brimstone which the proprietor's name is apt to carry, mentions a fact that a brother of Emma Abbott built a sawmill in the neighborhood, in which lumber was sawed and shingles were made. This was in the spring of 1838. It was located on Atwood creek. The same man afterwards built a chair factory on the banks of the creek south of the bridge. Subsequently he sold out his holdings to Atwood.

Along the Chicago road there settled Ludlam Ayres, Levi Green, Thomas Hopkins, William Parker, William Richardson, James Goddard and Don Cooper, most of them in the forties. Some of them, however, from recent changes of boundary, would have to be classed old settlers of Dixon.

The boundaries of Nachusa have been changed more frequently than those of any other township and one is led a merry chase to keep track of the western and northwestern boundary of the township for any length of time. Don Cooper sold his claim to Joseph Emmert, a man of means and tremendous energy. The next year he built the best improvements on the place to be found in Lee county. The residence was a fine two-story affair and the barn was a very large one, its sills and timbers all being hewed from hardwood trees. It was the first large barn built in the county. In the year 1850 Mr. Emmert built a large flouring mill on Franklin creek. It was the first one built in the

township and it was almost the first one to be built in the county. At all events when completed it was the best and most complete.

In the year 1847 Alexander P. Dysart, later colonel of the Thirty-fourth Regiment, Illinois Volunteers, purchased the claim of Thomas Hopkins and entered other lands from the Government. In the year 1846 John M. Crawford and Samuel Crawford came to Nachusa township and located on lands which they held until their respective deaths.

These two families, the Crawfords and the Dysarts, were large families, and to this very day their children and grandchildren are numerous. I do not know the family that ever resided in Lee county better qualified to receive honor from the historian or biographer than the Crawfords and the Dysarts. They were prominent in all the useful walks of life. They were people of strong character. They were fearless; they were upright and generous and enterprising and in the upbuilding of this county they have been powerful factors. The last of the old guard has gone to his reward, but long after the names of Crawford and of Dysart shall go down before the Reaper, the names of the old pioneer members of those families will live in the memory of Lee county people.

The village of Nachusa was platted by Joseph Crawford, county surveyor, March 1, 1851, and Col. Alexander P. Dysart and George Baugh were proprietors of the townsite. At first it was named Taylor, but with time the names of the township and the village were made identical.

About the time of the platting A. P. Dysart and a man named Cunningham erected a store and entered the mercantile business. About 1860 John Dysart and a Mr. Riley succeeded to the business and in conjunction they erected a grain elevator.

The first postmaster was Alexander P. Dysart and almost continuously ever since some member of the Dysart family has been the postmaster. The first school in the township, built of stone, was erected by Cyrus Chamberlain and presented to the school district. It was located on section 19. Mr. Chester Harrington was the first teacher. Prior to its erection, schools were taught in private houses by a man named Sheldon, who was the first teacher in the township. Cyrus Chamberlain was the first justice of the peace and he was the first master in chancery as well. He also built the first sawmill in this part of the county.

The second schoolhouse was built of stone, on section 26, and the same later was used as a church by the United Brethren.

When Lee and Ogle counties were united as one under the name Ogle, Cyrus Chamberlain was one of the county commissioners. During all his life he was an active, whole-souled, generous man of affairs, always ready and willing to contribute liberally of his time and means to push the interests of his county or his neighborhood.

After reading the delightful relation by Mrs. E. C. Smith (Sephie Gardner) of the trials of her parents, Doctor and Mrs. Charles Gardner, the history of Nachusa in a general way looms up big and forceful. The family lived on the Chicago road, six miles from Dixon, six miles from Inlet Grove, six miles from Palestine Grove and six miles from Franklin Grove. Emigrants by the hundreds passed their home. The reputation of kind Mrs. Gardner had gone back east and almost every emigrant knew Mrs. Gardner and her deeds of kindness long before entering the Inlet country. Many times indeed I am afraid the dear lady was taken advantage of by impecunious, though agueish emigrants. Her aunt, Mrs. Erastus DeWolf, came west and bought a place about a mile from the Gardners and in Aunt Hannah's parlor the first Sunday school ever held in the township was held. The very first school, too, ever taught in the township, Mrs. Smith insists was taught in Aunt Hannah's house. Prior to that time the children had been sent to Mrs. Edson's in South Dixon. The first teacher in Mrs. DeWolf's house was Miss Betsey DeWolf, who married John Barnes, a brother of Uzal and Nelson Barnes.

The first death in the township was of "Old Michael," a man who worked for Mrs. DeWolf. This was about the year 1840, and at the time Mrs. DeWolf gave the little burying ground which Michael's grave dedicated, to be used for cemetery purposes. It was in the northwest part of the farm and is called the DeWolf cemetery to this day.

In 1842, or 1841 perhaps, the first schoolhouse in the south end of the township was built and Miss Betsey DeWolf taught there; also a Miss Hunter. The school afterwards was moved to the southwest corner of the Gardner place, where it was known as the Locust Street place, from the numbers of locust trees growing there, planted by Dr. Gardner.

In 1840 Thomas Brown brought his bride to live in the little cabin just opposite the Gardners. They had been old friends



back at Newport, Rhode Island. Among the good old names associated with the name and life of Mrs. Gardner are Mrs. William W. Heaton, Mrs. O. F. Ayres (who lived at Inlet for a while), Mrs. Seaman and Mrs. Silas Noble, all of Dixon; Mrs. Charles F. Ingalls, Mrs. Hannum, Mrs. Abram Brown and Mrs. Sarah Trowbridge, names to endure as long as grateful memories are permitted and as long as the Lee county chronicler will take the trouble to write accurately.

I might add also the names of Mrs. William Y. Johnson, Mrs. Ozias Wheeler, Mrs. J. T. Little, Aunt Sally Herrick, Mrs. Alonzo Mead, Aunt Polly Hale. Never has story been told better of the cares of the country doctor than by Mrs. Smith when writing of her father's experience.

"My father came west with the intention of becoming a farmer and giving up the medical work, which had been so severe a tax upon him and mother in Newport, but it was simply inhuman to refuse to give what aid he could to the sick and suffering in the new country. He was far too warm-hearted to consider personal comfort when weighed against such odds.

"So it came about that in less than a year he was riding all about the county, over the trackless prairies, fording streams, or getting 'sloughed,' in a practice far more extended and difficult than that of the city had been. Sometimes in a sickly season he got scarcely any rest, except in his buggy, and his faithful horse learned to go from place to place with the reins lying loose on his back or to find his way home in storms with unerring fidelity, when, as father said, he could not 'see his own hands, or tell which way they were going.'

"He often had to be not only physician, but nurse, cook, surgeon, dentist, lawyer, or even housemaid when he found families all sick and needing these varied services. The enduring regard of the friends of those days proves beyond question that he filled all the offices acceptably, though his rewards were often of a very unsubstantial character.

"Mother often supplemented his work, going with him, or taking his place in milder cases or on alternate days, but sometimes she had to sacrifice personal comfort or even more that he might minister to those in greater need."

He went northward as far as Buffalo Grove and to the east into DeKalb county; going, coming, nights and days, without meals and almost always without pay for his services. Such a man was Dr. Charles Gardner, the old pioneer physician of



Nachusa township. Many years he has been gone. The old homestead has changed hands but I doubt if the solitary thoughtful person ever passes the old homestead but he says to himself, "There is the old Doctor Gardner place." Children are taught to reverence it and I verily believe that so long as memories of the glories of the old Chicago road shall endure, so long shall memories of Dr. and Mrs. Charles Gardner endure.

Among the children who attended Sunday school at the home of Mrs. DeWolf were the Leake children and we are told that Sunday school drew children from many miles of circuit.

The handsome brick house on the Chicago road which to this day is the admiration of the countryside, was built by Daniel Leake. The other members of the Leake family already named but not nicknamed were Butcher John Leake, Miller John Leake, and John Leake, Jr.; all Johns. Then there was Daniel and his children.

I have just learned that Miss Nancy Teal was one of the very early teachers of the stone school built by Mr. Cyrus Chamberlain. She was sixteen years old at the time. She was fortunate in her salary, receiving one dollar and fifty cents a week instead of the current stipend, one dollar and twenty-five cents. Mr. Chamberlain gave her a tin horn and requested her to blow it whenever she required assistance. One day the horn was blown and Mr. Chamberlain responded promptly. An unruly pupil was sent home. His irate father returned to school at once prepared and resolved to thrash the teacher. But a few well timed remarks from Mr. Chamberlain sent him back home and not very long afterwards the pupil apologized. Mr. Chamberlain was always doing services for others; many of them of great value, and if not too late I should like to add that over in Grand Detour he built in 1852 a Methodist church costing \$2,500 and donated it to the society. About 1850 the "Red" schoolhouse was built substantially on the county line.

Elias Teal came to this neighborhood in 1836. He was a Government surveyor. He built a log house and lived on the place the rest of his long life. His place is known today as Teal's corner.

On the northeast quarter of section 19 and over into the south half of section 18, the old trading house of LaSallier and the big Indian burying grounds were located and there in 1822 as will be found in another chapter, a large business was done with the Indians in furs. Only a little distance from there was the big

Indian village in which Andrew Mack dwelt in the very early days and there too was built the fur press used in pressing furs for the Indians and the traders indiscriminately. So far as is known Nachusa township contained the first settlements or at least the first white settlers that ever set foot in Lee county. Traces of the LaSallier cabin, the fur press and of the Indian village are to be found easily at the present day.

The LaSallier place was on the farm of Eugene Harrington, whose father was another of the very oldest of the old pioneer settlers of Nachusa. In Nachusa too is located the Kingdom, known far and wide almost from the beginning of things. Just now the first part of the name has been forgotten by the present generation. But it is a fact that because that section of the river country was so naughty in the early day, it was called "The Devil's Kingdom."

All is changed now. Within its confines will be found the very best we have of citizenship. Beautiful homes; substantial out-buildings, macadam roads, automobiles; verily a land flowing with milk and honey.

The German Baptist (or Dunkard) church on section 5 was organized by Rev. Jacob Emmert and the church was built about the year 1850. This structure was superseded by the later one, 34x54, with basement and kitchen and sleeping room above the audience room. The society organized with about twenty members, among who were Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Lahman; Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Riddlesbarger; Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Riddlesbarger; Oliver Edmonds and wife; Benjamin Kesler and family, with others.

The name of the first preacher who can be recalled, was Benjamin. He preached around at the different houses. Another minister named Reed, an Englishman, preached to the early settlers at the stone schoolhouse near Joseph Brierton's.

James A. Heaton, came to this township in 1844; Jonathan Depuy arrived in this township June 2, 1842; William W. Darker came in 1845; Samuel Crawford, 1848; William H. Fiseel, 1848; John P. Brubaker, 1849; the Keslers in 1850; Col. A. P. Dysart, located in 1845 and settled permanently in 1847; John Leake landed at Dixon's Ferry with Isaac Means and William Moody; Daniel Leake, and Thomas Leake, sons of John Leake, brought the rest of the Leake family in 1841, and John C. Leake came with the last named in 1841; Daniel Leake who came in 1841; Calvin Burkett, 1849; John M. Crawford, 1849; John R. Merrill, 1839; Wil-

liam Garrison, 1845; the Hausen family, 1840; George Palmer, 1846; Jacob Wertman, 1838; Benjamin F. Brandon, 1837; Jacob Emmert, 1841; Marshall McNeel, 1847; Jacob Hittle, 1841; Chester Harrington or as sometimes spelled Herrington, came to the Kingdom in 1837. He married Miss Zerina, daughter of Cyrus Chamberlain. It is on his farm that the old LaSallier trading station was located. John Garrison came in 1845; Alexander Depuy came in 1846.

This closes the chapter of Nachusa, the first settled township of the county according to its present boundaries. Of course for some time it was in Dixon precinct. But most of the time it was a part of China township and while the Harrington farm during that period was in China township, China then might claim the right to be styled the oldest town in the county. We are dealing with the year 1914 however. Nachusa in this year, contains the Harrington farm; consequently in dealing with things as they are today, Nachusa is the oldest township in point of settlement by a white man in Lee county.





## CHAPTER XXXI

### NELSON TOWNSHIP.

Superficially, Nelson is a small township; but in everything that makes for progress, good citizenship and home making, Nelson is of the largest. Always intensely loyal to its neighbor, Dixon, much of its history is so closely identified with Dixon's that I fear, one must look into Dixon's history to get Nelson's history.

While referring to Nelson's loyalty to Dixon, I should say that when it became necessary to enlarge the old first courthouse and make it over into our second courthouse, the burden as usual fell upon Dixon to meet the expense. The county board refused to consider the proposal of enlargement. Amboy always awake to its opportunity to wrest from Dixon that county seat opposed and so it became necessary for Dixon to shoulder the expense. The burden was heavy and in a manner superbly generous, Nelson township cheerfully consented to assume responsibility for part of the debt incurred in the enterprise. Accordingly a tax was voluntarily spread and collected. The Northwestern road passes through Nelson township in a southwesterly course, entering section twelve and leaving through section nineteen. On section twenty the village of Nelson was platted. For years it remained contented with the ordinary routine of village life. No aspirations for big things ever appealed to its few substantial citizens, but when the cut off was made between Nelson and Nachusa, Nelson took on considerable commercial importance, because before that time a few years, the branch southward from Nelson to Peoria had been built and the two roads made of Nelson a center of importance. Recently when the Northwestern pushed its road farther into the coal fields, Nelson as a railroad center was placed in a commanding position. Into Nelson there come for distribution over the entire system, over 800 carloads of coal per day to say nothing of the other cars of general merchandise.

The first settler of Nelson township was Luther Stone who came in 1836 from Erie county, New York, and made his claim on section 29. His sons, Burrill and Samuel Stone came with their father and shared all his hardships. Abner Cogswell settled there in 1843. Charles F. Hubbard came there in 1837. Lewis Brauer, Nathan Morehouse and Charles Noble, father of Charles H. and Col. Henry T. Noble were among the other early settlers of Nelson. Mr. Charles F. Hubbard, one of the most conspicuous, like many others came to Lee county through an accident.

In company with his brother-in-law, William Graham, he started for the Rocky mountains. These two young men went from New York to Pittsburg, thence down the Ohio river to Cairo; thence up the Mississippi to St. Louis which was to be their point of debarkation for the mountains. But upon reaching there they found the Sante Fe wagon train had gone and no other train would depart for a long while. The Rock river country had a great reputation at the time and so they turned their course northward and came to Dixon. Buying a claim from John Dixon, they settled on the south bank of Rock river and there Mr. Hubbard lived until the day of his death, on the northeast quarter of section 11, the bluff of which overlooks the river for a long distance.

The Hubbards and the Grahams and the Bayleys and the Lawrences, living on opposite sides of the river were people of rare intelligence and education. They all were people of means. I suppose one might not offend the truth to style them aristocrats. In point of breeding, gentility, refinement and culture, they certainly were citizens of the very first rank. No better ever entered the confines of Lee county. Nelson being originally a part of Dixon precinct, I must ask the reader to consult Dixon history to secure very much of Nelson's history.

Luther Stone erected on his claim a large log house and in that he kept tavern for many years.

The first supervisor of the township was Abner Cogswell. The first justices of the peace were Daniel Uhl and George Jones. The first assessor was Michael Troutman. The first collector was R. Henry Heaton, all of whom were elected in 1860 the year the township was set off and organized.

Nelson was the home of Grandma Weed, who while alive enjoyed the distinction of being the oldest of the five generations of Heatons, living at one time. She was 105 years old. Following came Grandfather Heaton; his son, Judge William W. Heaton; his son, Dwight Heaton and his son, Charles.

The leading and I may say the only church in Nelson township is Zion's Evangelical church, Lutheran, which was organized Feb. 23, 1867, with fifty-eight members. The first elders were Conrad Hartman and Daniel Uhl; the first deacons were Lewis F. Long and Gerhart Missman. The first pastor was Rev. A. A. Trimper, the Dixon Lutheran minister. The second pastor was Ephraim Miller, who assumed his duties there in 1871. In 1875, Rev. J. P. Sanderson followed. In the year 1877, Rev. J. W. Henderson assumed charge and in 1879, Rev. J. B. Kast became pastor.

In 1880 a new building was erected costing \$3,500 on the land of Conrad Hartman.

The Sunday school of Zion's church always has been a gratifying success.





## CHAPTER XXXII

### PALMYRA TOWNSHIP

The proximity of this township to Dixon and the warm social and political friendships always existing for Dixon, makes the township almost a common community with Dixon, and to speak of Dixon one seems in duty bound to include this large and wealthy and patriotic township of Palmyra. To this day Dixon contains more sons and daughters of Palmyra than she holds of her own children. The home loving tendency always has been strong with the old settler there and with his children. Few of the old settlers ever moved westward. They set their stakes in Palmyra and there nine-tenths of them remained until loving friends followed them to their final resting place in the beautiful cemetery near by.

The drainage towards Rock river, which is Palmyra's south boundary, could not be ordered better. Its numerous park-like groves furnished timber in abundance to the early settler. Its first settlers were sturdy homeseekers, able and more than willing to meet the struggle with frontier hardships. Sugar Grove, covering over two thousand acres, in the northwest part of the township, was the largest of the groves. In partial compensation, those settlers found fish in the river, and game in the timber and on the prairies in abundance. Maple sugar was easily supplied; nuts for the winter, berries for the summer and for winter preserves were supplied lavishly; and in the roar of crackling winter fires, in the glow of great fireplaces, the pioneer of Palmyra enjoyed all the creature comforts man could honestly crave. And who shall say the showier civilization of today affords a greater enjoyment?

Like the sister settlements of Inlet and Melugin's Grove, those of Palmyra began in 1834. Members of the Morgan family, John and Harvey, the father, and Benjamin Stewart, with them, came first.

The Winnebago Indians from the Freeport and Prophetstown villages were numerous, but friendly. On the south side of Sugar Grove, the Morgans and Stewart settled. In November of 1834 John H. Page and wife and Stephen Fellows; in the spring of 1835 a large number of settlers came along and took up claims in Palmyra. The number included Smith Gilbraith, Wright, Tomlin, Capt. Oliver Hubbard, James Power and sons, Thomas and Jephtha; Michael Fellows, Absalom Fender with his large family, William W. Bethea, Daniel Obrist, Anson Thummel, Jefferson Harris, Keplinger, Nathan Morehouse, Sales, Thomas and his sons, Enoch and Noah; Sandy (William T.) Bush, Elkanah B. Bush, Martin Richardson, William W. Tilton. Other early settlers were: Hiram P. Parks, William Miller, 1841; Walter L. Rogers, 1839; Oliver A. Hubbard, 1836; Franklin Wilson, 1856; Simeon T. Martin, 1837; Harvey E. Johnson, 1845; Charles Lawton, 1854; Charles A. Guyot, 1852; David A. Holly, settled in Chinatown in 1835 and in Palmyra, 1845; Eben H. Johnson, 1838; Charles A. Martin, 1836; Amos Goodwin, 1852; Jacob Martin, 1836; Matthias Schick, 1842; John L. Lord, 1838 in Dixon, and 1841, Palmyra; Charles A. Becker, 1839 in Dixon, then in Palmyra in '40s; William Myers, 1836; George L. Klosterman, 1845; John Tharp Lawrence and cousin, Alexander Campbell, Aug. 9, 1839; Charles B. Thummel, 1845; Anson E. Thummel, 1841; Alfred A. Beede, 1836; Anton Harms, 1848; Ralph E. Johnson, 1847, born there; Henry Miller, 1838; Becker Miller, 1838; Winthrop Seavey, 1839; T. A. Butler, 1839; John Morse, 1838; Daniel Beardsley, 1835; John C. Oliver; Abijah Powers; Henry Coe, 1836; Walter Rogers; Reuben Eastwood; Timothy Butler; Hugh Graham; John Lawrence; Abner Moon; John, father of John L. Lord; Jarvin N. Holly; James, Jacob and Tyler Martin; Capt. Jonas M. Johnson; William V. and Morris Johnson; Joshua Seavey and sons, Jesse and Winthrop; Joshua Marden and son, William; Albert and John Jenness; Harvey E. Johnson; Charles and Dana Columbia; Levi Briggs and father; Thomas Monk; William and John Benjamin; Truxton and Lemuel Sweeney; John and Joseph Thompson; John Norris; William and Lockwood Harris; William Burger; William Stackpole; Rev. William Gates; James Gates; William and Thomas Ayres; L. and E. Deyo; Col. Lemam Mason and sons, Sterne, Volney and Rodney; Moses Warner and sons, Henry, Moses and George; Major Sterling; Henry and Gustavus Sartorius; Nehemiah, William, Fletcher and Morris Hutton; Abram Obrist; Martin Blair; Wesley Atkinson; Thomas and

Moses Scallion; John Carley; Hardin; Beach; Benjamin Gates; Charles A. Becker; Becker Miller; Curtis; Martin and William Brauer and William Miller.

It was W. W. Bethea who remarked that he was attracted to these parts because John Dixon was reputed to be the only man who had any money and who always gave employment to him who asked for it. The first dollar earned in Lee county by Mr. Bethea was his wage from Mr. Dixon.

Mrs. Hubbard did the first teaching in Palmyra in her own house. A private school taught at the Fender place by William Y. Johnson in 1841, was next. At Prairieville in the upper room of a house Levi Gaston taught a private school. A rough building half way between Gap Grove and the old Fender homestead was used during winter months for two winters for school purposes. William W. Bethea was the teacher. But if I am correctly informed the true historic building was the old log schoolhouse standing on the southwest corner of John H. Page's field: it was near the forks of the road and was surrounded by a locust grove. This old school in 1845 numbered fifty pupils. Among the teachers were William Y. Johnson in 1844, subsequently an Episcopal clergyman; John Norris; Emeline Dodd, subsequently his wife; Abigail Norris, a sister, who married Noah Thomas; Sarah Badger, a sister of the Amboy Badgers, and Calista Mason, daughter of Col. Leman Mason, and subsequently wife of Morris Johnson.

Afterwards, a frame school building was built at Gap Grove, across the road from Mrs. Hutton's house. The Sugar Grove frame building was built about 1847, near the site of the later church and school building. Following is a description of it: "It was severely plain, unpainted, unfenced and destitute of shade. Simplicity also reigned within. The high-backed benches, with their ungainly desks, separated by aisles, were elevated from one to two feet or more above the floor, sloping down an inclined plane, and were marvels of ugliness. Not a map adorned the walls, nor was any apparatus furnished, with the exception of a blackboard. There was not even a bell to summon the pupils from their play, the teacher having to rap on a window with a book or ferrule. In the year 1857-58, a brick church, with basement for school purposes was built near the old site."

A phonetic school was taught at Gap Grove in early days by Rev. A. B. Pickard, a Methodist minister from Mount Morris. His son taught the same system at the same time in the little log schoolhouse standing near John Lord's residence.

Another school was taught by the Judd brothers in the old town hall at Gap Grove. Advanced students only were taught; many from a distance attended.

Not to be lacking in variety, Gap and Sugar Groves each had a singing school taught by a party named Durgeon. Spelling schools, too, were a source of winter pleasures and profit. These contests excited township-wide interest. Families were expected to furnish tallow dips, which were arranged in sockets at intervals upon the walls, and many times their drippings would drop below on the head of some unlucky speller. In 1857 illuminating lamps for school use at Sugar Grove, first appeared. Camphene was the fluid used in them.

Annual Sunday school celebrations were held, generally on July 4th, and at the Gap. Sometimes the Palmyra people united with the Buffalo Grove people and to the latter place they went in a grand procession; many times with banners and flying streamers.

Travel through Palmyra township was almost continuous during the early days, and hand in hand with blacksmith shops the taverns for men and women and stables for horses were a necessity. Consequently along the big highway, taverns were scattered.

In Palmyra Captain Fellows kept one and John C. Oliver kept another.

Farmers generally found it necessary to make three or four trips to Chicago yearly. Provisions were taken along many times for man to eat, and horse feed, always. Tripp's tavern at Inlet was a favorite stopping place. It was the first stop.

Corduroy roads over swampy grounds many times were worse than the swamps they were presumed to bridge.

After loading for the return voyage, it was found generally that there were waiting many horseless people in Chicago, wanting to come out into Lee county, and never was there a load so great or so heavy but that a trunk and a passenger or two could be accommodated.

The first church in Palmyra was built jointly by the Methodists and Congregationalists and occupied by them on alternate Sundays. It was located on the present site of the Gap Grove school-house. Its dimensions were 24x36; painted white without and within. A wood stove heated it; tall-backed benches provided seating capacity; tin sockets for candles were arranged on the walls, with reflectors on the back. Congregational singing was the vogue and John H. Page and his tuning fork provided the momen-



tum. Rev. Barton Cartwright preached at times for the Methodists and Reverend Copelin for the Congregationalists.

The first church services were held in the home of Capt. Stephen Fellows and later at a little log schoolhouse standing near the present Horace Gilbert home at Gap Grove. In 1839, Mrs. Martha Parks and her husband attended church there and at their first service listened to Rev. Arrion Gaston. This Mrs. Parks was the last survivor of the old Dixon and Buffalo Grove Baptist church.

While speaking of Mrs. Parks, I should state that her daughter, Mrs. Thomas Ayres, was named by "Mother" Dixon after herself, Rebecca Dixon Parks, and for a name present gave the child a deed for a lot in Dixon. Mr. Parks never thought it would amount to anything and never got the deed recorded. The lot today is covered by the building of the E. N. Howell Hardware Company.

E. B. Bush was first postmaster. After county organization, William W. Bethea and Levi Gaston became the first justices of the peace.

On Nov. 18, 1838, Mr. and Mrs. Eben H. Johnson wrote letters back to York state. Therein Mr. Johnson says, "wheat is worth \$1.25 per bushel and corn 50 cents."

Six years later he wrote and stated that Chicago and St. Louis, with sometimes the Galena mines were their markets. St. Louis was reached by Rock and the Mississippi rivers. Wheat then was 75 cents to \$1 per bushel, 80 cents at Galena; corn, 25 cents; oats, 20 and 25 cents; butter, 12 to 18 cents; cheese, 6 to 8 cents; dressed pork, \$3 to \$4; horses, \$100 to \$150 a span; cows, \$8 to \$12; sheep, \$1.50 to \$2; wool, 31 cents; timber land, \$10 to \$12 per acre; prairie land, one mile and further from timber, \$1.25 per acre. Wooden axle wagons were sold from \$60 to \$70 each. In the same letter Mr. Johnson declares money was plenty. Mr. Johnson when he wrote the letter, was a good Palmyra booster.

Rev. Stephen N. Fellows, son of Stephen Fellows, in a lengthy letter has done much for preserving Palmyra history to us, by writing it down for "Recollections of the Pioneers." His father, with his family, settled in Sugar Grove, in November, 1834; they moved into a 14x14 log cabin in the Grove, just west of the Myers place, and fourteen people made it their home. In the spring of 1835, he built a log house on the "old place," later Peck farm. In 1836 an addition of two stories was built, with a room between. The upper story was used for a school room and for church purposes. Until 1837, it was the only place used for meetings. Sometimes quarterly meetings were held here. In 1839 Stephen Fel-

lows, William Martin and Ambrose Hubbard united and with such help as could be got, they built the old Gap Grove church, 24x36. Stephen Fellows died Feb. 8, 1840, and was the first to be buried from that church. Mr. Fellows thinks his sister Margaret and his brother Samuel were the first teachers in the township. Samuel taught in the house in the winter of 1835-36. The first Sunday school was held in the first schoolhouse mentioned, and William Martin was superintendent and only teacher.

Death claimed many in the early day. Dan Beardsley, 1839; W. W. Bethea's wife and three children; Capt. Stephen Fellows' two daughters, Margaret and Mrs. Allen, who died in 1836; a Mr. McGee.

Private cemeteries prevailed here as in all new settlements. There were two graves on the Powers place at Gap Grove, the second one being that of a stranger who came from Kentucky and his malady was supposed to be asiatic cholera. He died on the night of his arrival.

The first public burying ground was upon the Capt. Stephen Fellows place, on the north side of the road, on the hill east of the barn. But when in 1840 the Gap Grove cemetery was located, most of the scattered bodies were re-interred in it. The first burial in the new cemetery was that of Captain Fellows, Feb. 8, 1840.

In a community exclusively rural, one would expect to find no manufacturing or mechanical industries. No early day contrariety worked so boldly as this exception right here in Palmyra. Beginning with the trapper and hunter, Sales, of Sales' Spring, the milling industry of Lee county made its appearance. He landed there with nothing but a collection of mouths, stretched wide open like young robins. But he was not afraid to work. If he would split one hundred rails, his wage was one bushel of corn. The corn he carried home, bored a hole down the center of a log, over which he fastened a slender pole with an iron wedge inserted in its end. Working this pole up and down, he pulverized the corn; then sifting it, he used the finer particles for meal; the coarser for hominy. With fish and water and woodfowl and berries and sugar from the maples, the family of good appetite reveled in good living.

In the early days Wilson's mills had a reputation for turning out fine flour which spread all over northern Illinois, and he was a Palmyra man. It saved the northwestern part of the state future hardships of trips to Chicago.

Joseph Wilson, an old Brandywine miller, and a Quaker, settled on Elkhorn creek, operated his mill on that creek excepting at those times when the creek was dry, then Aurora on Fox river was their milling town. This mill was constructed by the neighbors who turned out in a body and built it, a rough log affair. Winter wheat generally was ground.

After the death by drowning in Elkhorn creek, of Daniel Obrist, while seining, his brother, Abram, built a very much needed saw-mill on Elkhorn creek and here flooring, timbers, door and window frames and siding were sawed out, thus saving the farmers tremendous labor. The first siding from this mill was used to build the first frame barn in the township, on the Ben Stewart place. Barn raisings were very common in those days. The entire neighborhood turned out invariably; plenty to eat was provided by the women; plenty of Fred Dutcher's corn whiskey was provided by the men; and when completed, the barn was "baptized" by breaking another bottle over the plate either by Reuben Eastwood or Abner Moon, whose vigorous lung power had provided them with voices to echo the proper speech.

Blacksmith shops were numerous the country over, especially along the Chicago road which passed through this township. A man named Smith opened the first shop. James Carley followed soon afterwards. The latter's shop stood a little west of Mrs. John Lawrence's house. A very talented but besotted man named Beach was his assistant. John Lord's shop, a little way out from the milk factory, was started in 1841. Twelve years later his son, John L. Lord, succeeded to the business and for years Lord's wagons were scattered all over northern Illinois. Matthias Schiek's establishment followed in 1843, at Prairieville. On the north side of the grove Charles Columbia operated one in a log house just opposite Reuben Eastwood's home. This subsequently was moved across Sugar creek to the Columbia farm and was carried on by Dana Columbia, a brother, for many years. Four early shoe shops found their way into Palmyra.

Before passing the subject of manufacturing, I must copy a few words which tell of the man Beach who assisted James Carley: "This Beach belonged to a highly respectable family in the East, and had received an excellent business education. He kept Carley's books, which were models of neatness. He also blew the bellows and fetched the whiskey from Dixon. Old settlers will ever remember this mass of rags and pimples, his head crowned with a dilapi-



dated old stovepipe, always filled with old greasy newspapers, which he greedily devoured when he had leisure."

The early manufacturing efforts made in Palmyra must not be dismissed without reverting to E. B. Bush's efforts. He was the most impractical man in the world. He built a saw mill. Had he paused there, all might have been well, but he proposed too much. He also built an oil mill for the manufacture of castor and linseed oil. To obtain grist for the latter he induced the farmers to raise large areas of castor-oil beans and flaxseed, promising a dollar a bushel for them. The crop was tremendous. There was not money enough in the county to pay for it. The then manner of threshing was not adapted for flax. When the horses were put on to trample the straw, the seed was crushed and spoiled and the straw invariably coiled itself into ropes and tethered the horses into a stationary position. Thus the flax and oil branch of the business failed utterly. When the bean crop came on, Bush had no money and the crop rotted. Thus early the manufacturing languished. Subsequently Bush sold a claim, invested his money in medical books; tried to become a doctor, killed most of his patients and disappeared.

Of the Palmyra boys, many reached fame and fortune. Of the number, the Page boys, sons of John H., undoubtedly lead.

George H. Page was born May 16, 1836, in Palmyra township. Soon after the outbreak of the war he obtained a clerkship in the War Department at Washington. Charles A. Page was born in Palmyra, May 22, 1838. He attained a clerkship in the Fifth Auditor's office. Later in the war he became the New York Tribune's war correspondent. In 1866, George H., Charles A. and David S. Page went to Switzerland and established a condensed milk factory. They profited enormously. Later George H. returned to Dixon, bought the beautiful Governor Charters estate of Hazelwood, the Doctor Everett, Big Elm farm and the Woodruff farm up the river. Through his instrumentality a system of good roads was built. He built the immense Anglo-Swiss condensed milk factory, now the Borden's, and arranged all his affairs to live again in Dixon, where all the scenes of his childhood were enacted. But while in New York city he caught a bad cold; pneumonia set in and he died. Over in the old Palmyra cemetery beside the graves of father and mother and all his brothers, he was laid to rest close to those childhood scenes which he had hoped to enjoy so much. His plans for the future of Dixon were many. His



death cut them off. Mrs. Page and son, Fred, still live, spending most of their time in Europe where they have large interests.

While not a Palmyra "boy," yet Charles H. Hughes came from Palmyra, and Charles H. Hughes was one of the biggest men ever produced in Lee county. While mayor of Dixon, the system of public improvements was commenced which are going forward to this day almost as he would have made them. He bought the Hazelwood estate and while it was his, he brought it to a very high degree of beauty. Later he was made a Representative in the Legislature; then a Senator, and that position he held at his death. He was a man of commanding ability. His plans for civic improvement were comprehensive and practical. He conceived big things; he accomplished big things, and he became the biggest man among men. After a day's work nothing refreshed him so much as to retire for the evening to his log cabin on beautiful Hazelwood and by the blazing knot fire plan out something more for Hazelwood and Dixon. Now he, too, is a neighbor of the Page boys in the same cemetery over in Palmyra.

Solomon Hicks Bethea, son of William W. Bethea, became a lawyer, a legislator in the Illinois General Assembly, a United States attorney and a judge of the United States District Court for Chicago.



## CHAPTER XXXIII

### REYNOLDS TOWNSHIP.

Leaving the township of Alto, one enters to the immediate west, the township of Reynolds, a beautiful body of land peopled by a splendid class of farmers. Here one is in old Inlet still. By this time, the vastness of old Inlet should be fully comprehended and the troubles of many of the people in traveling so far to vote must also be comprehended by this time, although in Reynolds nobody yet had settled when this territory was a part of Inlet. Reynolds like Ashton and Alto, being off the thoroughfares, did not settle until along in the fifties. At first Reynolds was part of Brooklyn. At the present time every inch of this township is under cultivation, with the possible exception of the stone quarries of fine stone lying just a little to the east of the west line of the township. Here, in the early day, the builder was compensated for the lack of timber from which to build a cabin, by the presence of stone which he was permitted to quarry and carry away without thought of compensation. Later, however, when its value became better known and stone became in demand, large quantities of it were sold and considerable quantities of it were shipped. After cement began to be used for building purposes, and the demand for stone fell off, the stone became useless and once again this stone may be had for the asking almost. Thus does the staple become the refuse and thus does the good of one day fluctuate and decline into uselessness! Robert M. Peile, one of the old settlers, owned this stone quarry. At another time the Illinois Central railroad sent experts to it to test its qualities for building piers and abutments; but after careful experimenting, its quality was found to lack the ingredients wanted for great durability.

The first history of Reynolds has been neglected sadly. We know who some of the first settlers were, but the dates of their set-

tlement never have been recorded and so in a general way only, can the history of this township be given.

Sewell Reynolds, Thomas Minier, Jonathan Whitehead, John Herrington, Dudley C. Whitehead, Daniel Brink, Jr., and Charles Gooch were among the older settlers and most of them moved to other parts before their deaths. However, Sewell Reynolds, who afterwards moved to Rochelle, was the first settler, locating in what was known as Brush Grove, about the only grove in the township and in his honor the township was named. Simeon Reynolds was the first child born in the township and Nelson Morgan's was the first death.

On April 5th, 1859, the voters of the township met at the school-house in district No. 1 and organized by choosing Peter Mills as moderator and Robert M. Peile, clerk. At this meeting, Thomas Minier was elected supervisor; John C. Piper, town clerk; Thomas Minier, assessor; Dudley C. Whitehead, collector; Daniel Brink, Jr., overseer of the poor, and E. F. Gatten, John Whitehead and David Douthett, highway commissioners. The constables were Dudley C. Whitehead and John C. Piper. The justices of the peace were Peter Mills and Robert M. Peile. At this same meeting the voters then appointed E. F. Gatten, John Herrington and John C. Piper a committee to divide the town into road districts.

This meeting was held in a little cabin, 12x16, 6 feet high, built and owned by Horace Stearns for a residence; it stood for many years thereafter on section 10 and was used as a cornerib and then as a pig pen. There were not many persons present at that meeting; the names known today are J. C. Piper, R. M. Peile, C. N. Reynolds, Simeon Reynolds, Silas Shippee, W. M. Hawkins.

The low ground, for many years a part of the great Inlet swamp, was not cultivated, but with the big ditches dug since that time, that land is of the very richest. It is known as the Flats.

Previous to the building of a Methodist church, a meeting for organization was held in the house of C. W. Ament, in the autumn of 1875, with the following attendance: C. W. Ament, F. F. Farm-low, C. F. Van Patten, John A. Edgar, Daniel C. Miller and B. F. Parker who were elected a building committee. Very soon thereafter the church at the Flats was built, a building 32x42, 16 feet high to the eaves with a seating capacity of 200, was made ready for use.

In my haste however to erect this church building in Reynolds, I must not forget to state that that first meeting was opened with prayer, after which resolutions were passed for the organization



proposed. F. F. Farmlow was chosen chairman and C. W. Ament secretary. C. W. Ament was made clerk and treasurer and he, with F. F. Farmlow, C. F. Van Patten, John A. Edgar, Daniel C. Miller and B. F. Parker were elected a building committee. Soon after the building was occupied, A. N. Dow was chosen treasurer, C. F. Van Patten, secretary, and John A. Edgar, C. W. Ament, A. N. Dow, C. F. Van Patten and B. F. Parker, were elected trustees. Sunday school was held there every other Sunday for many years; as many as forty members attended regularly.

Another very strong church in Reynolds is the Emanuel church, German, situated about a mile east of the Bradford line and four miles south of the Ogle county line. On January 5th, 1872, a meeting was held in the schoolhouse for district 4, for the purpose of organizing a church. C. Gagstetter was made chairman of the meeting and Ernst Wiener, secretary. At the same place the committee appointed, met on Jan. 20, 1872, and reported favorably. A building committee was then appointed consisting of John Kersten, George Sandrock, George Boley, Martin Wagner and Ernst Wiener. At this meeting the following trustees were elected: Ernst Wiener, George Kersten, John Neuman, George Sandrock and George Boley, Mr. Wiener was made treasurer, George Boley was made secretary of the building committee. The building built was 34x50, 18 feet to the eaves, with a steeple about 18 feet high and a bell. The seating capacity is 400. The cost was about \$4,000. Since erecting, the building has been remodeled somewhat and improvements to the value of at least another one thousand dollars were added. On Oct. 13, 1872, the church was dedicated, clear of debt, the sum of \$1,100.82 being raised at the time. Unto this day, this church is in a flourishing condition.

Mr. Peile of this township was one of the first, and probably the very first man to introduce the herding of cattle in Lee county. He commenced by herding something like 900. Subsequently he had 2,700 under his care at one time. At this time it is almost inconceivable how such vast herds could be cared for, yet they were cared for comfortably and Mr. Peile never sustained a loss outside of the June tornado of 1860 mentioned in Willow Creek and Lee Center histories. During that fearful hurricane, many cattle and other stock were killed outright.

Mr. Peile seemed to have incurred the enmity of windstorms because in the year 1880 and the month of June too, his large barn, 50x100 was blown down. Nowhere can I find the date of Mr. Peile's arrival in Reynolds, but by calculating from 1850 when he

landed in this country, adding a stay in the East; two years teaching near Mendota, he could not have settled in Reynolds before 1853. At the time of his settlement, the township was called Brooklyn township.

Martin Wagner, located first at Lee Center in 1854 where he entered business as a tailor. Seven years later he moved to Reynolds. John Trotter settled here in 1860. While Ernst Wiener came to Lee Center, then Bradford as early as 1858, he did not reach Reynolds until 1864.

Thus it will be noticed that most of the first to settle in this beautiful township, settled first in nearby townships, and Reynolds was almost the last township to attract permanent settlers in numbers. But at this moment, Reynolds contains farms as high priced as any in the county. It was not so very long ago that Michael Sullivan sold his farm for over \$200 per acre and bought another for almost \$300 per acre.

Reynolds is peopled today very largely by the descendants of those rugged old pioneer Germans who settled in Bradford and China at first and then when the prices of their lands advanced, they crossed over into Reynolds and by remaining, they have been made rich to the last man. From the inquiries I have made concerning Reynolds I find that every person there is rich in worlds goods.

## CHAPTER XXXIV

### SOUTH DIXON TOWNSHIP

In the treatment of the township of Dixon, manifestly, little can be said of the olden day because for most of its history, the township was included within the township of Dixon, and most of the old time history pertained to Dixon and has been told already. However, this chapter cannot be dismissed with any such explanation as that. Since its separation from the present township of Dixon, much has happened in South Dixon which deserves close attention from the historian.

If no more than the old red brick schoolhouse were to be treated, that historian would have his hands full for a considerable period of time. Nine-tenths of the boys and girls of Dixon who have amounted to anything in the world have taught school in the old red brick. The old debates there have attracted the very best there was in all the countryside and in Dixon to thresh out a decision. The flights of eloquence which have battered those sacred old walls would have annihilated any built less formidable.

Who is there of half a century ago who does not remember the bursts of rhetoric supplied by Ephraim H. Groh? Who that ever has seen and heard him can forget Abram Brown, one of the most delightful gentleman that ever entered the borders of Lee county? To possess those two gentlemen and to honor them will lend to South Dixon a history worth while.

The old red brick stands today as modestly as it stood the day it was built; I wish I could find out just when it was built. Modestly I say, yet valiantly, when Mr. Brown wrote his brief historical sketch of this township, he very modestly omitted the schoolhouse and its debating society. This debating society was organized in the year 1858, under the title, The Edsonville Literary and Debating Society. Its first meeting was in this old brick school-

house, so that it was standing then. The "corners" were called Edsonville. Mr. Brown who was a member of it from its birth until his death, was its first honored president.

Never was there a political campaign during the old days but the red brick was used week after week, and from the little rostrum, Elihu B. Washburne, Horatio C. Burchard, Tom Turner, James L. Camp, Col. John Dement, and Shelby M. Cullom have spoken.

Today those same corners are called St. James and a church opposite the old red brick has been built, taking the name perhaps from the name of the church, "St. James Lutheran." At one time the attendance at this school was 120, more than at any other school in the county outside the cities of Amboy and Dixon.

Joseph Cortright was the first permanent settler. In 1839 he died and after that, the widow and her son, Richard removed to Dixon to live. Before that date, however, a young man whose name has not been left behind, settled in 1836. He staked out a claim near the three mile branch on the Chicago road. Shortly afterwards Peter McKenney and his good wife, Aunt Rhoda came along and through some misunderstanding, they jumped the young man's claim. Uncle Peter was about as hard headed as most men and when his head "was sot" as he termed it himself, he was as immovable as the rocks of Gibraltar. When told that he had jumped the young man's claim he refused to yield to the demands of the "Claim Jumper's Society," and that body proceeded at once to make him move. When a delegation reached the place Uncle Peter was smoking his pipe peacefully in the shade of his shack while Aunt Rhoda was getting dinner. Two of the delegation took Uncle Peter by the arm and without much resistance, he was led over the boundary of the claim. But with implicit faith in his better half, he sent back the rallying cry, "Keep possession, Rhody; keep possession. They can't get us out if you keep possession." But in spite of Uncle Peter's faith in Aunt Rhoda's ability to keep possession, Uncle Peter's cabin was loaded on a big wagon and wheeled away and the McKenneys tried no more to secure the claim.

The second permanent settler was Charles Edson, who came with his family, of wife and sons and daughters, in 1839, from Pennsylvania. That family increased to five sons and three daughters.

These people were remarkably intelligent. They were just as benevolent and cheerful; just the people for pioneers and to this



very day the Edsons are remembered for their many virtues. Mr. Brown tells a very amusing story about Mrs. Edson after she had her teeth drawn. Her chin, like Mother Hubbard's turned upward toward the nose and upon meeting her one day, Mr. Brown said jocularly, "Your nose and chin will have a meeting some day." "Indeed," she answered quickly, "I'm not certain but they will; many words have passed between them already."

I feel it my duty to repeat Mr. Brown's words concerning this delightful family, not because they are relatives of my family's relatives, but because they so truly and so nobly represented the pioneer spirit.

"Mrs. Edson was of that cheerful, mirthful disposition that attracted the grave as well as the gay, while her lovely character bound in the ties of a warm esteem, all who were thus attracted.

"Mrs. Edson was left a widow before her children were fully grown, but their training was begun right and it was her pride to say in her old age that 'not one of them ever caused her a moment's pain or shame by any wrong-doing.' They were all worthy men and women, noble in nature, honored by their fellow citizens and beloved by those who knew them best. To the day of her death in advanced age they showed the tenderest solicitude for their mother, and this slight tribute to her inestimable worth will find an echo in their hearts as well as in many others.

"The oldest daughter, Harriet, married Otis Eddy, but was soon bereft of her husband and infant daughter. She became a very tower of strength to all the family thereafter, and is to this day an ideal woman—practical, unostentatious, but noble in every sense. She went with her brothers across the plains to California when the gold fever broke out. Returning, after a few years, she again accompanied them to Pike's Peak on a summer trip, made in the same way. When a younger brother lay at the point of death in a southern hospital during the war, it was Harriet who went to him, cared for him, and brought him home.

"The family went to California and prospered. Their home lies at the foot of Mt. Shasta, and Mrs. Eddy was the first woman who ever ascended that beautiful peak. She made the ascent about the year 1854, and ten years later she repeated the feat with her youngest sister, Libbie.

"The other sister, Lucy, is well remembered as a talented musician. Though a sufferer from a fracture of the hip joint which made a crutch necessary from childhood, she was as ready and

cheerful as any, and no more delightful evenings ever were spent by the young people than when they gathered at 'the Edsons.'

"They built the house and barn now owned by the writer—one of the few of the original farm homes left on the prairies. They afterwards removed to the place near the Brick School House, which is often spoken of by their name. Their house is still standing though no longer used as a dwelling.

"Here Mr. Edson died, and here the sweet youngest daughter, Libbie was born. As soon as their first home was habitable, Mrs. Edson gave up her largest room for a school. This was the first in the vicinity. The teacher was a Miss Robinson, later a preceptress in Mt. Morris Seminary. She married Judge Fuller of Ogle county, and after his death, Bowman Bacon, a nephew of Mrs. Joseph Crawford.

"Among the scholars beside Mrs. Edson's children, were Mary Augusta Gardner, now Mrs. James A. Hawley; William W. DeWolf, the genial judge of later years; his brother Erastus; Wellington Davis and Hannah Casterline, later the wife of Mr. Davis.

"The superior schools in that district at a very early day were largely due to the influence of the Edson family, some of whom were its best teachers. Mr. Edson helped to build the first Methodist church of Dixon." [Note: He also helped build the Brick School House and was its first teacher: Editor.]

The next family which came to South Dixon was that of James Campbell, with Mrs. Campbell, two daughters, Ophelia and Julia. The latter became one of the first teachers in the North Dixon primary schools and later married Eugene Pinckney.

Reuben Trowbridge settled near the present town or village of Eldena with his father and the family.

Hiram and Heman Mead came soon afterwards. Their brother, Alonzo settled a little further to the east in China township. Later in life, all three moved into Dixon and there died at advanced ages.

Just another story from the pen of Mr. Brown about another South Dixon settler which is most interesting: "Somewhat in contrast to these, was a man by the name of Hammill, who brought with his family from the poor-house of Buffalo, N. Y., a little child. The child was so shamefully treated that N. G. H. Morrill, the county poor overseer or poormaster, took her to his home in Dixon. Her pitiable condition excited the sympathy of the people at once. Her hair was dirty and matted, face unwashed and what do you think she was clothed in? It was an old coffee sack, with the

corners cut off for arm holes, and a hole in the center of the bottom for her head; no underclothing, shoes, or stockings.

“Hammill prosecuted Mr. Morrill for kidnapping the child. When the case was called, he was ready with his lawyer, whom many old settlers remember; Mackay by name. When they adjourned for dinner they went to the old Western Hotel. Just as they were through dinner, some men stepped up to Hammill with a kettle of hot tar, which they poured over his head and shoulders, the streams running down over his whole body; another shook over him a bag of feathers, and then they rolled him in the sand of the street. I shall never forget how he looked, lying there with closed eyes. I thought he was dead. But in a moment he opened one eye, then the other, and seeing the men busy elsewhere, rolled over and springing to his feet, ran to some bushes near by, then for home. He was a laughable sight. On the principle that the partaker is as bad as the thief, the men felt that his attorney deserved similar treatment and attempted to administer it, but the tar was too cold to run easily or to hold the feathers. He showed fight and came near killing one of the boys. The muzzle of his gun was knocked upward by a bystander just in time. The kidnapping suit ended there, and so I think, did the career of Mr. Mackay in Dixon.”

I may as well add that when the war broke out, Mackay was a violent southern sympathizer and he made so many uncomplimentary remarks about the northern people and our soldiers, that a party waited upon him and ordered him to leave town or swing to a tree. He went South and never was heard of again except by rumors now and then.

Mr. Brown's account of the old prairie schooner freighters is interesting and it must be reproduced.

“In an early day, provisions, pork and flour, were mostly brought from St. Louis, Kentucky, Indiana and the southern part of the state in large wagons with broad tires, high wheels and very high, long boxes, often 20 or 22 feet long. They made a track over a half wider than our common wagons. Drawn by three or four teams of horses, to eight yoke of oxen, and carrying from sixty or eighty hundred pounds, they well deserved the name of Prairie schooners. They went in gangs of six or eight wagons, with several men on horseback to pilot them and help avoid the sloughs. They sold their bacon at from 25 to 35 cents per pound; flour from 25 to 35 dollars per barrel.



"A few years later, while the men were working at the now abandoned track still discernible in places, of the Illinois Central railroad, some such traders would start from the southern part of the state, with large droves of hogs, carrying with them all the facilities for butchering—kettles for heating water, tubs for scalding, etc. When they came to a gang of men or to a village, they would sell, kill and prepare the meat for their customers. They carried their own corn, and gathered wood at the groves as they traveled; did their own cooking and were very independent. They lived chiefly on fried pork, coffee and hoe cake, made of corn meal, wet with water and baked on a board before the fire.

"It is said that when the prop for the board failed to do duty, they cast lots or played high, low, jack, to see who should lie on his back and prop the board with his feet."

Speaking of the old Illinois Central of the thirties, just as one enters South Dixon township, the old grade shows as plainly today as it did sixty years ago. The fill never has been plowed and the cut never has been plowed and in that cut there grows an immense cottonwood tree. It is Lee county's best monument to the follies of the wild cat days of internal improvements. Jacob Groh came to this township in 1848. Among the other old settlers who moved in to South Dixon township in the thirties and forties, were Uncle Jacob and Aunt Polly McKenney; Christon Stevens; Henry B. True; Caldwell Bishop; Henry Page; James Rogers; Matthew McKenney; W. A. Judd; Nathan Hill; possibly some of these men did not get here until the early fifties, but most of them came before that decade.

The Illinois Central railroad runs through this township and the village of Eldena is located on section 36.

The Lee County Home for the Poor is located on the southeast quarter of section 26, about half a mile from Eldena. Clyde Wicher at present is the superintendent of the home and Mrs. Wicher is matron.

When some years ago, 1906, the Northwestern railroad company desired to construct a line or road or cut-off to avoid the steep grades of the main line through the city of Dixon, it was built from Nachusa to Nelson, and passes through South Dixon with a considerable curve, and in a southwesterly direction entering section 12 and leaving the township through section 19.

South Dixon is settled by the very best of farmers. In this township Mr. I. B. Countryman's Oak Dale farm is located. Mr. Countryman is a wealthy retired merchant. He had been active



so many years he could not be idle. He deeply loved a farm and so he purchased a farm in this township in the southeast quarter of section 8. When purchased, it was said to be the poorest farm in the township. For years it had been stripped. Nothing had been returned to the soil and Mr. Countryman's many friends enjoyed much amusement at his expense for engaging in agriculture with characteristic city propensities of the agriculturist instead of the farmer. Mr. Countryman enjoyed all this badinage and proceeded with his program. He built very handsome buildings on the place and purchased some pure-bred Holstein cattle. Then he began building up the soil. Now he is reaping handsome benefits and profits from his investment. During the season just past he took from a field of alfalfa of nine and a half acres, \$100 per acre. Next year the field will contain twenty acres and the proceeds from it will be raised to \$2,000. A twelve acre field of clover yielded forty tons of hay and five and a half bushels of clover seed. The hay at ten dollars per ton made \$400 and the seed at ten dollars per bushel made \$55.

From his herd of Holsteins he sold ten bulls for \$1,250. Last season his cows averaged him \$160 per head in cream. In all his efforts to raise the standard of productivity in farm lands, Mr. Countryman has kept accurate account of every cent which has gone into the place and all that has been taken from it and he finds that for every dollar of feed he put into his cows, he realized two dollars and sixty-three cents. His butter fat cost him twelve dollars and forty-four cents per hundred pounds and his milk cost .6643 to produce.

Every day his cattle are groomed. The milking is done by machine into air tight receptacles. Then the milk is placed in the milk house and cooled in the quickest possible time. After each milking, all tools are sterilized. Dirt is impossible. After each churning, a jet of steam is turned into each machine which sterilizes it.

Recently a representative from the State University from Champaign made a test of Mr. Countryman's cows. Four tests were made per day and samples were taken, one of them being at midnight. With the twenty-eighth milking the product was sealed and sent to the state laboratory at Champaign. The cow especially tested was a three-year-old, after delivering her second calf. This female ran sixty-four pounds in one day of milk and in seven days she ran 452 pounds.

Very recently Mr. Countryman added butter to his Oak Dale product. He puts his butter in beautiful receptacles made from spruce pulp, holding one, two or five pounds. These are shipped to a special line of customers at figures far above the regular price of butter.

Soil culture has been studied carefully by him. His land has been fertilized and charged with properties required to bring about the best results in grains and grasses and having reaped handsomely from his intelligent efforts Mr. Countryman claims that land at \$1,000 per acre can be made to pay a profitable dividend.

Lee county may well feel proud of two enterprising citizens who more than almost any others have demonstrated what the farmer, the backbone of the country, may do if he will try putting intelligence into the ground along with fertilizers. These two are Mr. Countryman and Mr. Abram Ackert, now of Dixon but for many years an honored resident of Marion township.

Mr. Ackert is president of the Lee County Farmer's Institute and has been for many years. By his untiring efforts in securing demonstrators and lecturers here he has aroused a concerted effort all over the county for soil mending and soil medicines. Mr. Ackert is the pioneer in Lee county. Although retired now, and enjoying the blessings of plenty, like Mr. Countryman, he is constantly and unselfishly devoting all his time and all his efforts to better the conditions of his old time friend the farmer. Latterly too in this same township of South Dixon, Mr. C. B. Swartz, has bought a farm. He has stocked it with Holstein cattle and Duroc Jersey Red Swine and by the most systematic and painstaking efforts, he is building up a farm which is doing wonderful work for him. Like Mr. Countryman, he weighs each ration for his cattle and at the end of each day and each week Mr. Swartz can tell how any one of his animals stands gauged by the standard of profit and loss.

## CHAPTER XXXV

### SUBLETTE TOWNSHIP\*

Here is one more township carved out of old Inlet. It joins Lee Center on the south and its inhabitants took active part and stood up against the common enemy, the banditti, with the same courage.

Sublette in the very earliest days was inhabited by the sturdiest of settlers and to this day the sons and daughters of those old pioneers are just as sturdy, industrious, thrifty, intelligent and honorable as the old forefathers who lie buried in the two or three cemeteries down there. Sublette village was platted as Soubllette. Many have thought it took its name from the circumstance of that particular section of the railroad being sublet. But as every other section of the road, almost, was sublet in parts by the original contractor, the suggestion should have no consideration. The name of the original plat, Soubllette, should regulate the name. As to who the individual, Soubllette, was, the oldest inhabitant cannot tell. He must have been a non-resident.

The eastern terminus of Palestine Grove will be found in this township on sections 5, 6 and 7. Knox Grove is almost exclusively in this township, along Bureau creek. The old Chicago road running from Princeton ran through Sublette township. A part of another old state road running from LaSalle to Grand Detour in the halcyon days of the latter, may be traced through the township to this very day, through sections 17 and 18. The old Black Hawk trail made by the army in 1832, on its trips to and from Ottawa, and to and from Fort Wilbourn—the old telegraph and stage line between Dixon and Peru—entered the town at the northwest corner

\* For much of this valuable information the author is indebted to Paul Reis, associate editor.

of section 30 and left near the center of the south line of the same section.

It seems agreed that the first permanent settlement began here in the year 1837. Jonathan Peterson came over from Ottawa in October, 1836. He had come originally from New Hampshire. He spent the winter of 1836-37 in Ottawa. In February, 1837, he started for Lee county. During the summer he made his claim on the northwest quarter of section 4. He built his cabin just over the line in what became Lee Center township subsequently. Then he returned to New Hampshire where he married and in 1838 he returned to Sublette.

In 1837, the month of June, Sherman L. Hatch reached Dixon. To him, Inlet appeared more promising and to Inlet he went, to the house of C. F. Ingalls, who had settled there the year previous. That autumn he made his claim on the southwest quarter of section 7, where he built a log house. As though imitating the example of Peterson, he immediately returned to Vermont, was married, and the next year he returned.

In the autumn of 1838, Thomas and William Fessenden, with their families, came into Sublette from New Hampshire. They claimed land in sections 6 and 7, built a log house on the northwest quarter of 7, and moved into it in December. This is called the first real settlement in the township.

In 1838, Joseph Knox settled in the south end of the grove which took on his name. The same year, Sylvanus Peterson moved onto the southeast quarter of 5. Sometime before the year 1840, John Morton, R. E. Goodsall, settled. In 1839, Daniel Baird settled on the Grand Detour and LaSalle road.

In this same year, 1839, Phineas Rust built the first frame house in Sublette township, on section 30. Philo Stannard and Thomas S. Angier were there in 1840. Thomas Tourtillott was there too in 1840 and built a frame house 16x20 on section 31, and O. Bryant settled on the old Chicago road, on section 35.

Hiram Anderson, the man whose claim was jumped and with which claim Bull of Dixon was mixed up, lived in Sublette, and the exact description of that celebrated claim is the northeast quarter of the southeast quarter of section 33, and 1843 was the year during which Anderson settled on it.

About this time came Ephraim Reniff, 1843; Alpheus Crawford, 1844; Daniel Pratt; Levi Camp; Prescott Bartlett; Silas Reniff; Mr. Rogers; John and Hezekiah McKune. At this period, the year 1844, the immigrants who came to Sublette were to throw the



character of the settlers from New England to Germany, and to this day Sublette bears the imprint of Jacob Betz, the first German settler of Sublette. He took up a claim, the southeast quarter of section 33, near the timber known as Perkins Grove. He erected a log house and without loss of time began breaking up the virgin prairie. Like John Hotzell of Bradford, he became the pole star of old and young German friends back home. He wrote them his experiences and his views and the next year, 1845, Mathias Reis came there to live, finding with Mr. Betz a hearty welcome. He spent the summer and fall with Mr. Betz and in the winter time he split rails for Mr. Betz all winter for 50 cents per day.

Mr. Reis was made of manly stuff. Splendidly built; erect; a stout heart and afraid of nothing.

The country furnished many surprises for him who never had seen a new country. One day when Mr. Reis was busy at work splitting rails, he lifted his eyes from his work and there opposite the log he was splitting, stood a deer. Instantly he lifted his axe and threw it, but the deer darted aside and out of sight. After splitting several thousand rails that winter, Mr. Betz gave him a raise of 10 cents per day. During the following year, he continued in the employ of Mr. Betz. By the hardest kind of work and by the exercise of the closest kind of economy he saved enough money to buy 120 acres of land.

I may say that with the entrance of these two gentlemen I may begin my work on the Germans of Lee county, so far as they concern Sublette. In Sublette and Bradford the Germans predominated and do to this day. Now, the children have spread over into China, Ashton, and the population is made up very largely of German people, though of course younger; some of them belonging to the fifth generation.

In the year 1852, May the 6th, Mr. Reis married Miss Catherine Theiss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bartholomai Theiss. He built a house on his land in section 28 and began that successful life which became his.

Chicago in those days was the market place, and in common with all others who were compelled to go there, bad roads, sloughs and swamps played havoc many times with their journeys. One of the remedies applied to prevent miring down was to place sacks of grain ahead of the wheels; drive over them and after a long and tiresome effort, the other side was accomplished and much good grain was spoiled. Groceries generally were all that could be brought back in exchange for the grain. One of Mr. Reis's trading

places was very near the present site of the courthouse in Chicago and there for a long while was posted the sign, "Beware! No Bottom." Later, Peru became the market center for the people of that part of Lee county. Travel was invited that way and greatly accelerated by the laying of a plank road for several miles. That plank road was regarded with the same feelings of superiority over their neighbors as settlers in a favored locality regarded the railroad when it came along and superseded the plank road. This plank road was called the toll road and for a considerable while it made Peru famous.

At the time of his death, Mr. Reis had raised his landed possessions to 360 acres and on Oct. 7, 1894, the date of his death, he still owned the original 120 acres on which no mortgage nor transfer ever had been made. Surviving were his widow and G. M., Paul, and F. C. Reis of Sublette, and Carolina Schumacher, of Carroll, Iowa; Lizzie Walz and Mary Reis of Perham, Minnesota, and P. H. of Joplin, Montana.

I have mentioned the name of Bartholomai Theiss. This good old soldier came with his family, consisting of four sons and two daughters, John, Jacob, Godfrey, George, Margaret and Catherine, to Lee county, May 5th, in the year 1846, and located in Sublette. Mr. Theiss possessed great will power, courage and the endurance of the man who always has lived properly. For many years he served under Napoleon Bonaparte in the latter's campaigns in Italy, Prussia, Austria and Russia. He had won such distinction that he was made one of the great Napoleon's bodyguard. Mr. Theiss never tired of repeating his experiences during the great retreat from Russia, which was so fearful and so disastrous. He has the distinction of being the only soldier under Napoleon who lies buried in Lee county, and it is doubtful if there is another in the limits of the State of Illinois.

In the early '50s, the members of the Theiss family built the first Catholic church in Sublette township, known ever since as the Perkins Grove Catholic Church, or as St. Mary's Church. The old church still stands as well as the cemetery in which Mr. Theiss was buried on his death. Both the church and the cemetery are kept beautifully to this very day by the descendants of the original Theiss.

Bartholomai Theiss died Sept. 16, 1861, full of years; rich in lands and safely and securely lodged in the affections of his neighbors and family. On his monument there have been inscribed appropriate references to his years of experience as a soldier in

Europe and some of the many battles he engaged in have been mentioned. This notable grave should be marked and kept forever green in the memory of the people of Lee county, especially the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Three of his sons have passed away and were laid to rest in the Theiss cemetery. They are: John, who died Jan. 9, 1899; Jacob, who died Sept. 20, 1893; Godfrey, who died in 1904, and one daughter, Mrs. Mathias Reis, who died Oct. 14, 1897. George, the other son, now the oldest settler in Sublette, still lives in the enjoyment of peace and plenty.

George Hoffman and his family, consisting of his wife and three sons and two daughters, came to Sublette in the summer of 1845. They too were old friends of Jacob Betz and they settled near Perkins Grove. Henry, the oldest son, married, and by consistent work and economy he accumulated 600 acres of as good land as there is in Lee county. The father, George Hoffman, died in 1909, leaving surviving him his widow and seven sons and three daughters. He was a republican in politics.

Just as the Germans settled other parts of the county, so the Sublette Germans continued coming and settling and raising up families and these included the Malachs, the Lauers, the Wolfs, the Stengers, the Dinges's, the Haubs, the Stephenitch's, the Betendorfs, the Biebers, the Letls, the Koehlers and so many others, all so industrious, faithful, honest, and now all so rich. The big farms of the fathers, under the management of the sons and grandsons have increased in size and value until the Germans of Sublette township are the richest people in Lee county. No piece of land in Sublette township needs to be advertised. The moment it is known that a piece of land can be bought, a purchaser appears on the scene with the ready money to buy it. Not so very long ago by reason of death, one piece had to be sold to close up the estate. There were no children. It sold for \$300 per acre and the buyer stood ready to bid higher had it become necessary.

George Bieber landed in Sublette township in the summer of 1852. He was a shoemaker by trade and worked at his trade until the year 1858 when he returned to Germany to be married. He returned with his wife and bought a lot in the village of Sublette and built a house thereon, one room of which he used as his shoe shop.

One day a land agent came into his shop while he was working on a pair of boots; an agent from the land department of the Illinois Central railroad. This agent succeeded in interesting him



in a piece of land, about seventy acres, which a little later he bought for \$14 per acre, payable yearly.

The next year he had it broken and rented it for one-third of the crop. Carefully conserving every cent, he soon had it paid for and in time he added a quarter section near Odebolt, Iowa, to his possessions. This he sold and with it bought 130 more acres in Sublette township. At the time of his death, July 3, 1894, he still owned the 200 acres which was worth a fortune. So it was with those settlers. They knew what the great possibilities of this country were and to the last one they put their moneys into lands.

Two sons and one daughter were born to Mr. Bieber, George and Paul, both of whom live still in Sublette village. They buy grain and sell coal and lumber and do an enormous business. Like the father they have put large sums into Western lands and they are very rich. The daughter is Mrs. Kate Leffelman, also of Sublette village.

Paul Lindstrom, another of the old time settlers came along with Bartholomai Theiss. His was quite a romantic career. The ocean journey of Mr. Theiss consumed forty-five days, during which ample time was afforded the passengers to get well acquainted. Paul Lindstrom was a sailor on that sailing vessel, and, attracted to Miss Margaret Theiss, he lost no time in making her acquaintance. Before the voyage had been concluded, Mr. Theiss had consented to the marriage and Paul came west with the family and later was married to Miss Theiss.

Mr. Lindstrom was a splendid carpenter. He built the Bartholomai Theiss house, which gave him a tremendous reputation, and immediately he had more demands for his services than he could fill. It was he who built the Catholic church at Perkins Grove, the interior finish of which always has been made so interesting. All the beautiful carving about the finish, particularly the altar, was done by him with an ordinary pocket knife.

He built the first hotel in Sublette and very soon he and his good wife had the best known tavern between Chicago and the Mississippi river. In the management of that hotel they were very successful and made money rapidly.

When the Cripple Creek discoveries agitated the country and the stories of the fabulous sums to be made with the pick reached here, Mr. Lindstrom determined to seek his fortune there. Accordingly he joined a party and bought a claim in the Cripple Creek country.



The Indians bothered them more or less, but the party was so amply equipped to meet them, the Indians soon retired and troubled them no more. One afternoon when Mr. Lindstrom was doing picket duty, he noticed unusual wavings of the grass some distance away. He raised his rifle and fired and an Indian jumped up and fell dead. That was his final experience with the Indians.

Mr. Lindstrom sold his claim, built a brewery in Georgetown and with it a ranch, and now he is one of the wealthy men of the State of Colorado.

In a general way the Sublette Germans are democrats. They largely dominate the commercial interests of Sublette. In fact, I may say that with the exception of Mr. J. J. Barton, the postmaster, son of the old settler, Jacob B. Barton, all the business men of Sublette are Germans.

The Bettendorf brothers operate one of the two grain warehouses and do an enormous grain trade. Close to seven hundred thousand dollars has been paid out in the little village of Sublette in one year for grain. All of this business goes over the counters of the Exchange Bank of Sublette, so that one may infer readily that the bank is an exceedingly prosperous one.

While George Lauer was in the grocery trade there, his sales were enormous and he amassed a fortune. Paul Stephenitch, in hardware and agricultural implements, does a famous business.

Dr. B. H. S. Angear, of Sublette, next to Dr. A. W. Chandler, of Compton, is a pioneer in providing for his patients a hospital. Dr. Angear's, is engineered entirely by his own private means and is a marvel. It is justly the pride of the countryside. Provided with the very latest appliances this hospital cares for the comforts of its patients in a manner which has evoked astonishment from visiting physicians from abroad.

Doctor Angear is a physician of great ability and his faith in Sublette, by providing his hospital with every scientific appliance, has not been misconceived. Two trained nurses are in constant attendance. The operating room is a model. This hospital attracts patients from all points of the country.

Every one of those old Germans was a good Christian man or woman. During life they gave generously to their beloved church and in death rich gifts have been left it.

The Catholic church of Sublette, by all odds, is the most beautiful and the most costly in the county and but very few in the large cities are at all comparable to it. The cost has been something like sixty thousand dollars. It was built five years ago.

The magnificent pipe organ cost \$1,800. The raised pulpit has built over it a sounding board which so controls the voice that every word is heard easily in every part of the large room.

Not long ago when Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Michels realized they must soon die, it was the wish of each that their large property should go to the survivor during life, after which they wished to give it to the church. Mr. Michels died first and Mrs. Michels, to whom the property was willed, enjoyed it during her life. Just how to fix it she did not know, so she consulted her friend and counselor and the friend and counselor of her late husband, and appointing him executor of her will, she gave him absolute authority to spend the property as he, Joseph Bettendorf, thought best. With beautiful fidelity, Mr. Bettendorf carried out the intention of the testatrix. In Germany he bought the beautiful stained glass windows of the church. Those windows are burnt colors; eighteen months were consumed in the task. When they arrived in this country, the Government collector sent a deputy out to Sublette to see that they were used for no other purpose than for church windows. A Milwaukee firm came down and set them.

At a cost of \$1,800 Mr. Bettendorf installed the beautiful altar. He also purchased the rare vestments which the church now owns, and by the time he had executed his trust, he had spent between seven and eight thousand dollars.

There still lacked one item; only one, and that was a chime of bells. So in order to complete the intention of the father and Mrs. Michels, Charles E. Bettendorf, son of Joseph Bettendorf, bought a beautiful chime of bells, and last summer Bishop Muldoon christened the bells.

Beautiful homes and surroundings those Germans built. They raised families of patriotic, law-abiding citizens, some of the best in the world, and all over the township the influence of the fathers is felt by the children and grandchildren.

The first postoffice established was that of Broomfield, maintained at the house of Daniel Baird. This was about the year 1840.

In the year 1841 O. Bryant burned a kiln of brick and like his Maytown neighbor, he succeeded.

Just over the line in Maytown, taverns were kept by men named Richardson, Daniel Baird, Thomas Tourtillott and another named Morrison.

The only Indians ever known to Sublette people were the Shabbona Pottawatomies, who used to ride to and from the swamp near Walnut Grove along the Chicago-Princeton road.

Greene's mill at Dayton, on the Fox river, for a long while was the milling market for the settlers.

Some little time after Lee county was set off, Maytown and the west half of Sublette was known as Bureau precinct and the polls were held at the house of Daniel Baird. The east half of the township was incorporated with Brooklyn township.

In 1849 the county was divided into townships instead of precincts, and this township was named Hamo. The railroad named the village Sublette. In order to secure harmony, and to get the name of the township changed to Sublette, a petition was sent to Hon. John V. Eustace, who during the winter of 1856-57, represented this district in the Legislature, and the latter secured the desired change.

The first town meeting was held on the second Tuesday in April 1850. Alpheus Crawford was chosen moderator and Daniel Baird was made clerk of the meeting. A tax of 12 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents was voted to be assessed on every hundred dollars of taxable property. At that election Daniel Baird was elected supervisor; Henry Porter, clerk; Whitlock T. Porter, assessor; Silas D. Reniff, collector; Daniel Pratt, overseer of the poor; Hiram Anderson and W. H. Hamlin, highway commissioners; Samuel Averill and Thomas S. Angier, constables, and Alpheus Crawford and Andrew Bertholf, justices of the peace.





## CHAPTER XXXVI

### VIOLA TOWNSHIP

One section of Viola at least may be classed as belonging to the first year of Chicago road history. I refer to that part clustering around Melugin's Grove and Guthrie's Grove. In that little corner or rather spot in sections 32, 33 and 34, near Melugin's Grove and sections 26, 35 and 36 in which Guthrie's Grove was situated; in the southern tier of sections, settlements were made very early; contemporaneously with those just over the border to the south, in Brooklyn township. In fact most of the claims of the border settlers, both sides, lapped over. The prairie portion of the township, like all other prairie townships, did not appeal to the settler, and Viola further to the north did not settle until a much later period. When in 1851, Smith H. Johnson, father of the present commissioner of the Inlet Swamp Drainage District, B. F. Johnson went up into the prairie country of Viola to settle, he was nicknamed "Prairie Johnson," for his temerity and ever afterwards the name clung to him. At first Mr. Johnson lived south of Little Melugin's Grove, so that he was an old settler in Viola neighborhood and may be classed as one of the very oldest.

William Guthrie probably was the first settler of Viola township. In the chapter devoted to Brooklyn and Melugin's Grove, his name appears many times prominently. He settled at the grove which afterwards bore his name, in 1834. Mr. Guthrie like so many others who had been attracted to this county, had served in the Black Hawk war. In 1834, Mr. Guthrie made his claim and the next year he built his cabin. The grove was laid off into small lots of about one acre and sold as timber lots in the early day. Mr. Guthrie actually built the first house, a log affair, in this township. He cut the logs from his grove and lived near by until his death. In later days, his grove became known as the Little Melugin's

Grove. While John Gilmore actually lived just over the line into Brooklyn township, his original lands extended over into Viola, so that it would be unfair to class him as an old Viola settler.

William Lawton came in a little later, but when Walter Little came along still later, 1837, he sold his claim to the latter.

In the year 1837 there came to Viola township, one of the most remarkable men that ever lived in Lee county. He was a man under size, five foot six or perhaps seven, weight not over 145 pounds when I used to know him; very quiet; deep set blue and very mild eyes, yet a man of tremendous forcefulness. He was born in Ireland, in the County Antrim in 1815, October 15th. In the year 1835, after four years' residence further east, he settled in Viola township and lived there until the day of his death.

Landing here without a dollar, he accumulated land so rapidly and so perseveringly that he held for half his lifetime the largest body of land owned by any man in Lee county. There were 1,300 acres in his beautiful homestead in and around sections 25, 26 and 35. He was a stock-raiser. Rarely ever did he buy steers to feed. He preferred to raise his own steers. He put thorough-bred bulls at the head of his herd and very soon he owned the best grades in the county and Adrain steers in the markets needed no advertising. He was honored with every important office in his township. Though Viola was a long time settling, those people who took up their homes there achieved much and made great progress once they had got a good start.

Henry B. Cobb is another instance of what one man can do who possesses push and energy. I would class him as one of Lee county's biggest men. Exactly like Mr. Adrain, he farmed intelligently and accumulated large bodies of land. In the year 1852, he bought a land warrant of Elias B. Stiles and located it on the piece of land on which he lives to this very day. He had so much faith in Lee county land that he did not look at it before he laid his land warrant on it. It proved to be one of the rarest pieces of land upon which the sun ever shone.

Mr. Cobb did not settle upon this land at once. When later he did, John Hagardine, a brother-in-law, settled near by and so did one or two other relatives and friends from Connecticut, Mr. Cobb's native state. These relatives however did not like the country very well and so after wintering and summering it for a short while, they left. But with New England pertinacity and pluck, Mr. Cobb stuck and today, he probably owns more high priced land than any two or three men in Lee county combined.

Mr. Cobb always has been a feeder. But unlike Mr. Adrain, he has bought feeders and fed them the product of his rich lands. He uses the same feed lot today he has used for something like sixty years and today you will see in that lot some of the shapeliest steers the butcher would care to see.

The old house, modest, like the houses of all the old pioneers were, stands today a little to the east of Mr. Cobb's present beautiful homestead. In that little home, he and Mrs. Cobb built up this splendid fortune, and unless misfortune befall it, the little home will stand many years more. When Mr. Cobb entered this land in section 13, he did not have the means to till it and so he went down into Bureau county, near LaMoille and did team work; also worked for a Mr. Edwards in a nursery until by and by he felt he had accumulated enough to carry him over the period of waiting for a crop. His wages under Edwards were thirteen dollars per month and board.

By reason of the large area of swamp land in the central and western parts of Viola, large herds of cattle frequented that section in the earlier days.

Among the other old time settlers and farmers were Richard Phillips, B. F. Johnson, William Tripp, Henry Bennett, a man named Winters, another named Baker and another named Bucholz.

Originally Viola was a part of Brooklyn township. On the second day of April, 1861, the voters of this township met at the house of Moses Van Campen and nominated Simeon Cole moderator and Abram Van Campen, clerk. With their election the business of organizing the township of Viola began. On a vote being taken, it was found that fifty-seven votes had been cast, the great majority being for Samuel L. Butler for supervisor; Simeon Cole, assessor; Samuel Vosburgh for town clerk; constable and collector, John Melugin; justice of the peace, Henry Marsh; commissioners of highways, William Holdren, Ralph E. Ford and Moses Van Campen; poor master, Evins Adrain; pound master, John Melugin.

By the very reason of the herding of vast numbers of cattle by Robert M. Peile, this township had gone by the name of Stockton; but when it came to giving it a legal name under the organization proceedings, Butler, Eldorado and Elba were proposed. At this meeting no name was given, however, and so the officers gave their bonds to the township of Stockton.

On May 11, 1861, the highway commissioners of Brooklyn and Stockton met for the purpose of making the road along the common township line. The name for the township must have been discussed at that meeting because very soon thereafter the name Viola was given to it.

Willow creek is the only natural stream flowing in the township and it empties into Inlet swamp country in section 16.

The greatest enterprise carried on in this township, of course, has been the drainage proceedings which should be read carefully. The Panama canal is regarded properly as the engineering feature of history. But behind that enterprise, a great Nation with inexhaustible resources was furnishing the necessary funds. This great enterprise was carried on by a small portion of a small county and yet the section of the county which paid for it, per capita, paid far beyond the tax per capita paid for the canal.

Evins Adrain's wedding was the first to be performed in Viola township. He married a widow lady, Smith by name, whose maiden name was Marilla Goodale. The marriage of William Hopp and a Miss Smith was the next wedding and that of Truman Johnson to Miss Mary Melugin was the third.

Walter Little was the first adult person to die in this township. The first child born in the township was William Lawton's which died in infancy.

Inasmuch as Melugin's Grove furnished the churches and the schoolhouse of the early day for Viola, it is unnecessary to allude to the latter at least, except through the report on schools made by Prof. L. W. Miller. There was a little school, however, at Guthrie's Grove and the first teacher there was Moses Van Campen.

Viola has made a great number of very rich farmers. At this very moment there are dozens of retired farmers living in Dixon and Compton, made independently rich from Viola farms. About two years ago Mr. Cobb astonished the whole county by buying a large farm near his own for the sum of \$300 per acre, spot cash. When asked if he did not feel that he had got rather ahead of the times in paying that price, he took out his lead pencil and in no time at all he proved that he had made a bargain in his purchase at the price, the first time in the history of the county that \$300 per acre had been paid for farm lands.



## CHAPTER XXXVII

### WILLOW CREEK TOWNSHIP

This township is closely associated to this very day with Wyoming, its neighbor on the south, and all the old traditions are treasured here because many of them applied originally to Willow Creek.

The name, Willow Creek, was taken from the creek of that name, and it in turn was so named from the great numbers of willows which grew originally along its banks.

This creek takes its source in section 5 of Wyoming township, crosses the line into section 32 of Willow Creek township, flows northerly through sections 29, 20, 21, 17, where it deflects northwesterly into 7 and then westerly it empties into Inlet swamp, in section 16, of Viola township.

This is a beautiful township of land. Quite unusual, it possesses unrivaled scenic beauty and lands of unsurpassed fertility at the same time. Today it ranks as one of the richest towns in Illinois. So too it may boast with honest pride that there dwells within its limits one of the very first persons who came there in its trying pioneer days. His name is David Smith, and a nobler man and gentleman than David Smith is not to be found today. I am under many obligations to him. In all my researches, I have troubled many people with my inquiries. Some have been gentle and generous; others have been too mean and slovenly to answer gentlemanly letters and on personal requests have been found still worse. But Mr. Smith has gone out of his way to assist me in my Lee county inquiries and his information proved to be of inestimable value. He settled for me the much mooted Job Alcott question, and that of itself is of great importance to me.

Mr. Smith came to Willow Creek as a lad in 1837, and with his parents settled at one of the four beautiful groves of this town-

ship, from whom it derived its name, Smith's Grove. Smith's Grove, located on sections 34 and 35, was the largest perhaps, of the four. John Smith, from Argyleshire, Scotland, educated for the ministry, reached Willow Creek in August, 1837, and bought from James Armour a claim in section 35. Armour had bought it from one Cameron, who squatted on it originally. A few logs had been cut and that was the extent of the improvements done on the claim when it came into the possession of Mr. John Smith. This claim included all of Dry Grove, a few scattering trees, so called because no creek ran near them.

John Smith was not the first settler of the township, but he was the first settler of that locality. The house, erected immediately, was the second built in the township. It was thatched with mowed grass and the house of David Smith stands today almost on that identical spot.

In December following, the family suffered a fearful calamity. Their house burned down and consumed all their clothing, bedding, money, and a very valuable library, the only private library of consequence in the State of Illinois. The fire caught in the roof. It was the first dwelling in the township to be consumed by fire.

With indomitable pluck and energy, characteristic of the pioneer, especially the Scotch pioneer, another log house was erected a few rods east of the first.

Fortune dealt unkindly with this worthy family at the first; just as it did with so many other families away from old home ties; surrounded by Indians; lonesome. About three weeks after settlement, John Smith, the second son died and he was laid to rest in the family burying ground. That was the first death and burial in the township. Robert and David, other sons lived and remained and grew to manhood on the old place. There John Smith died in 1860, and there David lives today. Robert moved to Dixon and there died.

When John Smith came to Lee county he brought with him the old all-iron plow, in the firm conviction that nothing but the Scotch plow could turn a furrow of virgin soil. But as against the wooden beam steel plow of Illinois, Mr. Smith concluded he would not care to compete and so he threw it away along with his mattress of thistles, which he thought was the only bed in which mortal man could find sound slumber.

How lovingly the Scotch regard the home! John Colvill, later of Paw Paw, came with the family from Scotland, and lived with them for some years at first.

The other groves beside Smith's Grove are Allen's Grove and Twin Groves. Allen's is located on sections 35 and 36, Twin Groves on section 17.

In the autumn of 1836, one Peter Gonzolas, from Dutchess county, New York, said to have been a Frenchman, came and made a claim at Allen's Grove. Peter (Pierre) is a French name; but Gonzolas, never. He may have been a Frenchman and probably was, but in tossing his name down the ages, it has become badly disfigured. He remained two or three years and then left; some say with the Indians. Before leaving, he sold his claim to Richard M. Allen, and that was the first farm in the township to receive improvements.

The grove took its name from Allen and if the speech of people and the written records are to be taken at par value, then that grove by any other name would smell much sweeter.

Allen lived in a log house and kept tavern. His grove was thickly grown up to hazel bushes and chaparral, making a safe retreat for the horse thieves and counterfeitters who were said to have rendezvoused there during his brief sojourn. Allen left. When he left is not known, because in all human probability he did not leave upon the order of his going but left at once and was succeeded by a man named Price. Allen, however, in 1839, was still here.

In 1844 Israel Shoudy came and bought Price's claim, and lived upon it for the most of his lifetime.

In 1839 Horatio G. Howlett, who had been living in Dixon for a couple of years, settled at Allen's Grove and he remained here the remainder of his life.

Howlett was just the man for the nascent little settlements. He, like Town, of Paw Paw, feared nothing. He was elected constable when Town was elected a justice of the peace, with the understanding that never would either take fees for services in civil cases.

One day Justice Town sent Constable Howlett a warrant to serve on a man named Lovelin (or Loveland), charged with horse-stealing. As the most likely place to find a horse thief, he went to Allen's and was told the party wanted was plowing out in the field.

The stolen horse, in the stable, was tied and a companion was placed in charge of it, with instructions to take certain aim at Lovelin and fire, should he, Howlett, give the order. It was Howlett's expectation that he and Lovelin would return to the stable together.

Howlett read the warrant and demanded that Lovelin go with him to Paw Paw. Lovelin refused. Undisturbed, Howlett then said he presumed Lovelin was armed while he was not; that Lovelin might do as he pleased about submitting; but he, Howlett, proposed to take the horse and restore it to its owner. Lovelin fell into the trap and went to the stable to prevent the return of the horse, stating that only over his dead body could that horse pass. The instant the two men reached the stable, the guard darted into sight and drew a bead on Lovelin's heart. Howlett demanded a surrender and again instructed the guard to shoot when ordered.

Lovelin surrendered, Allen gave bail and the man was released. A bowie knife and two pistols were taken from him. Soon thereafter he requited Allen's kindness in harboring him, by running away with the wife and a horse of his friend, Allen. With Allen's assistance he was caught; lodged in the Sycamore jail; he escaped; lay in a stream of water until nearly dead; was retaken, and sent to the Galena jail.

One day while confined there, when the jailer's little son brought him his meal, he caught the boy in his arms, escaped, ran to the brow of a hill or cliff near by, and when the sheriff made for him, he held the child aloft between them and threatened to dash him to death below if not permitted to escape. Without a word of remonstrance he was permitted to go his way in peace. Later the fellow was lodged in jail in St. Louis, charged with horse stealing.

Judges Caton and Drummond, who traveled the trail through Allen's Grove from Ottawa to the hunting grounds of Wisconsin, told Mr. Howlett of the Galena incident.

This was the first arrest made in Lee county for horse stealing.

Speaking of this trail—a state road was laid subsequently, along that trail from Ottawa to Rockford, and for southeastern travel it was used very largely. It has been said that many times twenty and thirty teams in procession passed Allen's Grove.

Twin Groves were named first, Moore's, from William Moore, the earliest settler there, who began his improvements in 1837 at the more southerly grove.

James Thompson and Levi Lathrop came together as early as 1842, and together they bought Moore's claim, on which the latter had thirty acres of plowing. For the timber claim, Moore was paid \$50, the northwest quarter of southeast quarter of section 17. A short while afterwards Thompson bought out Lathrop's interest, and there Mr. Thompson remained the remainder of his days.



Robert Blair, brother-in-law to Mrs. Thompson, came at the same time from Melugin's Grove and bought a claim north of the grove, but he never took title from the Government. About 1850 he returned to Melugin's Grove. In 1881, he died at the house of Mrs. Thompson. The first birth at Twin Groves was that of a son to Mr. Blair, named Robert. This was in 1846.

Mr. Thompson's first house was no more nor less than a pen built with rails and covered with straw. A log cabin, not much better than the pen, followed.

For quite a while after this there was a lull in the advent of settlers. George Wise and Isaac Gardner, brothers-in-law, started improvements at the north grove, but very soon sold to Mark R. Averill, and left the country; Wise went to California and Gardner to Florida. Neither did Averill remain long. In the winter of 1853-54, he moved to Paw Paw, after selling his land to Jacob B. Fisher in the fall of 1853.

About 1846 Cummings Noe came to Twin Groves and settled. His first residence, like Thompson's, was a pen. He, Mr. Thompson and James Smith entered from the Government all of the south grove when it came into market.

The first white man's road marked out, though never surveyed, was staked out by Erastus Noe, from Twin Groves to Hickory Grove, and used many years. Hogs, running wild, estrays probably, were found in the timber before the settlers made their homes there.

James Smith and Nathan Koons reached there in 1847. Koons settled in the southwest corner, while Smith took up a 300-acre claim or more at Twin Groves. Joseph Barnhardt came in company with them.

In the month of June Shabbona and his Indians paid them a visit, which was enjoyed by the Indians, notwithstanding they nearly froze.

Smith carried to his new home a willow cane which, when starting, he had resolved to plant when he reached his new home. After cutting it into four pieces, he planted them and in time he had four trees from which other cuttings were taken by thousands, thus realizing a prophecy that he should realize from his cane thousands of dollars, and which prophecy, by the way, was ridiculed.

During the war a man from Galesburg, named Platt, bought those trees growing in the region, and shipped cuttings in carload lots to all parts of the West, to be used in planting, for hedge fences.

It took over two years to clean up the trees which originated from Smith's cane.

Jesse Koons from Ohio and A. N. Dow settled here in 1847. Samuel Reese and James Stubbs came in this year or next. A married brother of Stubbs came too, but he died soon after and James moved to Mendota. About the same time Cyrus and John Goff came and tarried a few years.

Lewis H. Durin and Gilbert Durin, brothers, came from Vermont in 1849, and these two men have left an imprint for good on Willow Creek, which never can be effaced. The L. H. Durin and Jacob Fisher estates own the north grove to this day. Later, Gilbert Durin removed to Steward. The Durins always were doing good while living and it is the same today with their children. Miss Ida Durin of Scarborough, in this township, in the year 1913, built for the school district what is regarded as the only perfect school room and attributes in Lee county. The dedicatory exercises in the summer of 1913 attracted attention from all parts of the state.

Wesson Holton, from Vermont, located northwest of the groves in 1852 and he was another strong man intellectually and every way; one of the grand old kind.

William L. Smith arrived in 1853 and James A. Harp in 1854. In 1853 the Byrds, from Virginia, settled on the north side of the groves. Louis P. Braithwaite came in 1853 and Louis P. Smith in 1854. This brings Twin Groves down to recent years, comparatively.

About 1840 Doctor Basswood came to the southeast corner and remained four or five years. Nathaniel Allen and his family came in 1845. His sons were named Harrison, Nathaniel, Chandler, Ephraim and Alonzo. He had four daughters. Benjamin Nettleton came in about the same time. Isaac C. Ellsworth, from Vermont, settled here in 1846. The year previous his son, Benjamin, drove a herd of stock out from Ohio.

Christopher Vandeventer, from New York, came in 1848, with a two-horse team and a drove of sheep and cattle. He settled on the southeast quarter of section 24, and at that time there was not a house between his own and the notorious Brodie's Grove in Ogle county, seventeen miles northerly.

Between 1846 and 1855 there came to this part of the township Mathew, Perry and Amos Atkinson, McNabb, Richard R. Walker, Andrew Stubbs, Freeman Crocker, Daniel Maxwell, Sylvanus Staples, Prince Stevens, Hugh Wells, George Clark, Richard Clark,

John Platt and Alonzo Osborne. Jephtha Mittan, in 1850, settled in the southwest corner.

Along up the east line of the township, John B. Briggs came in 1851, and John H. Bacon and E. E. Bacon about 1854.

The Germans, as in Sublette and Bradford, were conspicuous in the early settlements of Willow Creek, although they were not among the very early settlers.

The first to come was Gottlieb Hochstrasser, in 1854. About the same time came Joseph Herrmann. In 1856, Frank Bates, Frank Herrmann, John Herrmann, and in 1857, a second Frank Bates and Erhart Hochstrasser. John Yetter came in 1859 and in 1860 George Erbes came.

Today, dotted all over Willow Creek, you will see farms owned by the descendants and relatives of these men, especially the Herrmanns. There are in Willow Creek, Joseph M., August, Henry, Edward, F. C., and F. N. Herrmann, all splendid farmers and all prosperous.

But by far the most numerous are the Norwegians of Willow Creek and neighboring towns, which make up one of the very largest Norwegian settlements in the United States. It is about eight or ten miles long and about six miles wide.

As stated in another chapter concerning the Norwegians of Lee county, Sublette got many Norwegians first. Subsequently they left and most of them came to Willow Creek. The first was Amund Hilleson, who as a single man went to Sublette in 1851. From his first year's wages he bought from the Government, in 1852, the northeast quarter of 15. In the spring of 1855, after having saved some more money, he settled on that land. In the early part of 1856, Lars Larson Risetter, who too had gone to Sublette, followed Hilleson into Willow Creek and settled on the southwest quarter of 15. When he died, he was one of the richest men in Lee county. He bought land extensively, cheap, and it rose rapidly, and of him it was said, "No man made so rapidly and so fairly as Mr. Risetter."

Other Norwegians coming to Willow Creek were Jacob Edwards, Haakon Risetter, Newton Boyd, S. M. Maakestad, T. T. Eide, Thomas Nelson, and Ole J. Prestegaard, the richest Norwegian in northern Illinois, who as a poor sailor came to Lee in 1864. Without a possible exception, these Norwegians came from Hardanger, Norway. Last summer, 1913, over two thousand, from all parts of the United States, assembled at Lee, in this township, to hold their second annual fest. It was one of the noted

events in the history of Lee county. For two days those Hardangers visited and sang, and in the great tent just northwest of town, they assembled to bear tidings from one to another and arrange for attendance of the Hardangers at the home coming, back at the old childhood haunts in the fatherland. Without the slightest inconvenience, that vast multitude was cared for in and around the little village of Lee. During the two days' session not one boisterous word was uttered. Not a single police officer was detailed to care for the crowd. It was the best behaved crowd that ever met in Lee county.

These Norwegians are industrious, frugal and hard-working. Without exception they are people of means. Not a saloon can be found in this township. At one time a blind pig attempted to foist itself upon the community, but by the time those Norwegians got through with the proprietors, a lesson had been taught which has not been forgotten to this day.

Every Norwegian out here sings beautifully and the concert given the first night of the fest was a rare treat to all.

In 1866 the Norwegian parochial school was established as a part of the Lutheran church system, having for its object the teaching of the catechism in the native tongue. The Norwegians all teach the children the mother tongue.

First, sessions were held in private houses; next in various schoolhouses during the vacation periods. Alto and Willow Creek townships were divided by the Lutheran church into three districts for select school purposes. Six months' school were held each year, three of them in the spring and three in the fall.

Those in Alto and part of those in the north end of Willow Creek—nine families—constituted the Alto district and held their school in Union District, No. 10.

The third or south district occupied the schoolhouses of districts 5 and 7 and the one in Lee. The school was organized by Rev. C. G. Peterson and while waiting for a teacher, Rasmus Rasmussen taught for a month. Then Thomas Nelson, the first regular teacher, came. Subsequent teachers have been Messrs. Hendricksen, Christopherson, J. Gössendel, Iver Fanebust, E. Teffre, S. W. Weeks, J. J. Maakestad, and another, a student, S. V. Tveit, of Rochester, Minnesota, president of the Hardanger Society, was another teacher. These same scholars are presumed to attend the English public schools.

In 1881, the south district built a private schoolhouse, 18x26, on



the southeast corner of section 15, at a cost of \$500. Holden Risetter donated half an acre of ground for the purpose.

The present council of Lee is composed of the following members: S. M. Maakestad, president, or mayor; Barney Jacobsen, George Beels, Sr., Marshall Edwards, L. A. Plant, Oliver Halsne and Robert G. Nowe. Kinnie Ostewig is clerk and F. A. Bach is treasurer.

Lee has its own electric lighting and power plant which gives an all-night service. This independent plant is owned by J. E. Malmsberg. Power is generated by a 20-horsepower engine and I am told five gallons of kerosene will run the plant fifteen hours.

T. T. Eide is the oldest merchant of Lee. He has been located in one spot thirty years and has amassed a fortune there.

S. M. Maakestad has a very large general store, a handsome two-story brick of two rooms and filled with a very large stock of goods. Mr. Maakestad enjoys one of the largest business incomes in Lee county.

The opera house is a very commodious room, 60 by 90 feet I should judge. It is well lighted, well ventilated and surrounded by ample exits in case of fire. During the winter season a course of entertainments is always maintained. The merchants guarantee the amounts needed to support them and invariably the people patronize them liberally. In this auditorium the Norwegians held their banquet last September 18th, at their Hardanger Lagets, at which nearly one thousand were fed. This is called the Nelson opera house.

Three blacksmith shops do a thriving business in Lee; they are owned and run by Lars H. Jordal, John Malmsberg and John Tonch.

The garage and machine shops of Swan Ostewig & Co. are the largest of the kind in Lee county. In all the country round, this is the only shop in which welding can be done and in vulcanizing. Mr. Ostewig does all of it for neighboring cities and villages. His welding apparatus generates 6,300° of heat. In the immediate vicinity of Lee, over 150 automobiles are owned by farmers and citizens.

The Lee State Bank runs its deposits up over \$200,000. It was organized Nov. 14, 1903. Its capital stock is \$25,000 and its loans now aggregate \$175,000. The officers are Henry Johnson, president; O. A. Johnson, vice president; F. A. Bach, cashier. The directors are Ole J. Prestegaard, O. A. Johnson, H. W. Johnson,

J. E. Johnson, T. O. Berg, J. M. Herrmann, H. L. Risetter and W. E. Prichard.

G. P. Peters is proprietor of the large harness shop.

William Brown, Olaf C. Brown and Thomas G. Brown compose the firm Brown Decorating Company, which does a heavy business for twenty miles around.

Nels G. Johnson does an extensive paper hanging business.

Robert G. Nowe has one of the largest hardware stores in Lee county. I doubt if there is a larger one in the county. He issues handsome annual catalogues and does a large mail order business.

Charles B. Wrigley is the present postmaster. Besides his postoffice he keeps a stock of groceries.

Lee does an enormous grain business and the men who in the past have bought grain in Lee had made independent fortunes. Six hundred thousand bushels were marketed this year of short crops by the Neola elevator and that of Mr. J. E. Johnson. This Mr. Johnson buys live stock extensively, too. William Minnehan runs the local meat market.

George Edwards and A. A. Colby operate restaurants, and R. C. Flint and son operate the hotel.

A. R. Rogde, now eighty-five years old, is the only member left of the old first guard of Norwegians who came to Willow Creek in the '50s. He lives today on the same farm on which he settled. It lies partly within the village of Lee.

This village has a splendid volunteer fire company, of which Henry Eide is the chief.

Lee was incorporated about the year 1875.

The Norwegians of this big Norwegian settlement educate their children. The public schools of Lee are of the very best and after the children have finished the high school, they are sent to the university. In one family, three brothers are professors: one at Yale, one at Northwestern, and another in the East, I have forgotten where.

The Lutheran church called the Southwest, has a pipe organ which cost nearly two thousand dollars. Rev. D. J. Borge is the pastor. Twenty voices comprise the choir, out of which a glee club has been organized. This church has a membership of 300. The Lutheran Church Northwest, though not quite so large as the other, exerts just as commanding an influence in the community and its musical exercises command the same talent and the same numerical strength. The Norwegians of this colony are a temperate, happy, industrious and prosperous people and the settlement

is said to be the largest in the United States. Gradually extending, it has reached over into Shabbona and Milan townships of DeKalb county and over into Alto and Wyoming of Lee county.

And only think! A few years before, these Norwegians were so scattered that no more than four church services could be held in the year!

The first school of the township was held at Allen's Grove in 1848 and was taught by Miss Martha Vandeventer, sister of Christopher Vandeventer, in one of Israel Shoudy's log houses. Shoudy had several log houses and was a tavern keeper at the time. A little later Miss Nettleton and Miss Laura Brace kept school in the same place.

In the spring of 1849, a frame schoolhouse was built by subscription on nearly the site of a later one—Shoudy donated the land—and the next winter Miss Clara Price taught there. Miss Smith of Shabbona Grove was an early teacher in this school and so was John Colvill, later of Paw Paw.

Over at Twin Groves the first school ever taught was in a log cabin belonging to James Thompson. The first teacher is thought to have been a widow named Mrs. Stubbs, who was an early teacher in those parts. Miss Maria A. Holton, later Mrs. B. F. Ellsworth, taught here in the summer of 1853. The Twin Groves schoolhouse was built in 1854, by subscription, and in the fall of 1857 was bought by the district at auction. In the winter of 1863-64, it was burned down; another was built the following summer and Miss Mary J. Fisher taught in it the first term. Now the beautiful school building built by Miss Ida Durin is used at this point,—Scarboro.

The Ellsworth school was built in the spring of 1855, and Mrs. Ellsworth taught the same that summer. The finished lumber and shingles used in its construction were hauled from Earlville by Joseph McCoy. Religious exercises were held here regularly.

The Vroman schoolhouse was built about the year 1855, and Miss Helen Vroman was a teacher there for several terms.

Allusion has been made once or twice to the beautiful schoolhouse built at Scarboro by Miss Ida Durin. While upon the subject of Willow Creek schools, I might just as well tell all about this famous school. At this moment, it is the only school denominated "perfect" or, technically speaking, "superior," in the county, and at its dedication it was the third in the state to receive from the state educational department a diploma. On Saturday, the 17th day of May, last, with a splendid program, this beautiful



building was dedicated by Mr. U. J. Hoffman, a representative from the state superintendent's office. Mr. L. W. Miller, superintendent of Lee county's schools, was present too, and it may be said in this connection that he has done a vast amount of work in bringing to their present high standard the schools of Lee county.

This Scarboro school cost \$2,200. It contains a distinct library room, and it is filled with useful books. Its lavatory is conveniently arranged with reference to the two wardrooms and its mountings are of the best nickel.

The schoolroom is about 25 by 40. The seats are graduated with reference to the size and ages of children from the primary to the eighth grades. Cement sidewalks lead from the street to the doors of the school opening to the east. The very latest model of heating apparatus has been placed on the first floor. Mrs. Maria Ellsworth, the first teacher to teach school in that district, in 1852, was present and told the story of the first school already mentioned, and for her services she received the sum of \$1.25 per week and boarded 'round. How beautifully she contrasted the perfect school in which she was seated to the little affair way back in the fifties!

The program for this momentous occasion was as follows: Vocal duet, Misses Mishler and McCosh; male quartette; invocation, Reverend Schweitzer; vocal solo, Misses Mishler and McCosh, Miss Newcomer, pianist; reading, Miss Olive Yetter; address of welcome, Prof. L. W. Miller, county superintendent; vocal solo, Misses Mishler and McCosh, Miss Newcomer, pianist; address and presentation of tablet and diploma, U. J. Hoffman; vocal duet, Misses Mishler and McCosh, Miss Newcomer, pianist; History of the School District, George T. Noe; Experiences of an Early Teacher, Mrs. Maria Ellsworth. And this was a rare treat.

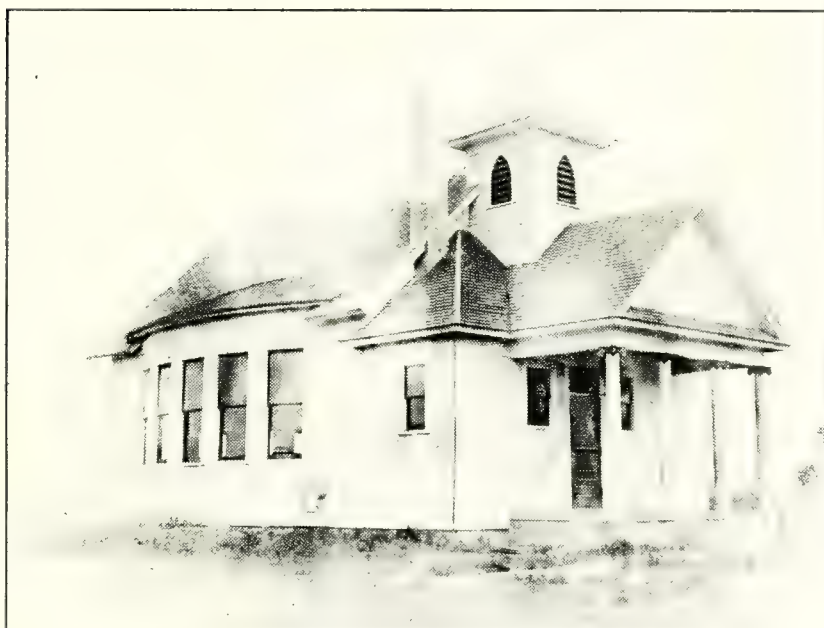
Male quarette, "Illinois."

Placing "Superior" doorplate on the front of the building and photographing the new building.

Refreshments were served in the open air to a very large number who were present to witness the interesting services.

If I remember rightly, Mrs. Ellsworth said that her first school, taught in 1852, burned down in 1868 or 1869. About two years afterwards a more pretentious affair replaced it, which by the bye, is used to this day in the village of Scarboro in the form of a store. The present is the third. I had almost forgotten to mention that the lighting arrangements proceed from the rear and left of the





PUBLIC SCHOOL, SCARBORO, WILLOW CREEK TOWNSHIP



pupils, and in order to secure the most possible of sunshine and daylight, the windows bow somewhat.

Miss Eunice Fisher, daughter of Jacob Fisher, is the present teacher in charge. Besides manual training which Miss Fisher teaches, sewing is taught by her.

Willow Creek had two country postoffices before Lee and Scarboro were platted. The first was the Willow Creek postoffice called by the people "Twin Grove," where it was established about 1849. The early maps, however, designate this as Willow Creek postoffice. Robert Blair was the first postmaster. He moved away, however, at the time and never handled any mail. It was actually established at the house of one of the Goffs, who had it for a short while, and until Blair removed in 1850. Gilbert E. Durin took it then and kept it until 1853, when it passed into the hands of William L. Smith. After keeping it for a while, he deputed a man named Beckwith to run it, who went wrong and then Mr. Smith took it back to his own house. James Harp followed and Ira Durin followed him. William Moore, B. F. Ellsworth, A. H. Knapp and Adam Miller successively followed.

The South Willow Creek postoffice was established in the sixties sometime, on section 34, and was kept until about 1873, by Hiram J. Abrams, when it was abolished.

The first preacher we can locate was Elder Baker, an itinerant Presbyterian, who held meetings at Allen's Grove in the Shoudy house. Reverend Canfield and Elder Wood from Earlville came occasionally. An exhorter named Olmstead is said to have preached in the various settlements of Willow Creek even before Baker preached there. Rev. James Price also preached there in the early day.

The first sermon at Twin Groves was preached by a Methodist minister from Rochelle. Rev. Richard Haney was the first circuit rider who came there with any sort of regularity. It has been said of Mr. Haney that he delighted to join in the wolf hunts and that upon one occasion he dug from the ground seven wolves. Reverends Davids and Roberts also preached there prior to 1860.

In 1855 Willow Creek was taken from Wyoming and made a township and to it the present township of Alto was joined.

The first annual town meeting was held at Twin Groves school-house, District 3, on April 3, 1855. Ira S. Durin was made chairman of the meeting; A. N. Dow was made moderator, and G. Bishop, clerk; and E. Woodbridge, justice of the peace, swore them in.

In 1861, Willow Creek was reduced to the regulation Government township, six miles square, by the organization of Alto.

Until 1860, the elections were held at the Twin Groves schoolhouse. The next two or three meetings, including two special meetings, were held at the Vroman schoolhouse. After that they were held at Allen's Grove. In 1865, they were moved back to Twin Groves. In 1867 and 1868 the Vroman house was used for the polling place and in 1869, the Center schoolhouse; for the next two years, the polling place went back to Vroman place and in 1872, to the Center house. In 1874, the election was held at the red schoolhouse and the next year at Adam Miller's. At the town meeting in 1874, C. M. Bacon presented a resolution instructing the town board to take initiatory steps towards buying a lot in the center of the township and building thereon a town hall. It was adopted. John Yetter, supervisor, L. G. Durin, assessor, Dwight Davenport, town clerk, and Robert Thompson and H. G. Howlett, justices of the peace, reported that one acre in the southeast corner of section 16 could be bought for \$150 and that a building 24x34, with 12-foot posts, would cost about eight hundred dollars. A vote on the proposal to build was carried, fifty to forty-seven. That same season the building was erected and the total cost was about one thousand, one hundred dollars.

On Oct. 16, 1869, a vote was taken on the proposition to bond the township to aid the proposed Rock River railroad, but it was voted down, twenty-four to one. On March 26, 1870, another election was held to vote on the proposal of bonding the township in aid of the Chicago & Iowa railroad, for \$50,000, on condition the company should run within one mile of the center of the township, and that was carried by seventy-five to fifty-one. But the road ran through the corner of the town in 1871, and so no bonds were issued.

The first supervisor was Robert Smith; the first town clerk was G. E. Durin; first assessor, Prince Stevens; first collector, William Byrd.

When during the Civil war it was feared Illinois might be invaded, a Union League was organized with a membership of about seventy, of which Nathaniel Nettleton was captain-president, and Andrew Stubbs was marshal. The organization met at Allen's Grove and the Vroman schoolhouse and was drilled by John Edwards, of Paw Paw, a Mexican war veteran.

When towards the end of the war recruits enlisted slowly, Willow Creek voted a bounty of \$600 to every volunteer who should



enlist and be credited to Willow Creek township after that date. No draft followed.

This little rural community did its full duty in the long struggle.

As near as may be learned, the following is a list of those boys who enlisted from Willow Creek township:

N. Chandler Allen, Alonzo Allen, Harrison Allen, who was in the Mexican war as well; David Anderson, Dewitt Abrams, Devalson Abrams, Sylvester Bidwell, John Baisley, George Baisley, William Baisley, G. S. Briggs, Adin Briggs, John Britton, Alpheus Beemer, Charles Bennett, Reuben Baetil, Joseph Barnhard, Bigelow Barnhard, Lewis P. Boyd, Orin Cisco, Levi Cashner, Robert Donaldson, Alexander Donaldson, Frederick Erbes, John Edgar, John Ellsworth, Lewis M. Fairchild, George W. Girard, Ehrhart Gehrig, James C. Howlett, George Hollenback, Edward Hollenback, Charles E. Hall, Moore Hess, Santee Hess, Edmund W. Holton, Densla Holton, Chandler G. Holton, George Hochstrasser, Orlando Jones, Andrew Jackson, Sivert Johnson, Morris Johnson, Joseph Kengular (or James Keghtlinger), Zephaniah Kengular, Nelson Larson, S. S. Linton, Jonathan F. Linton, F. C. Mason, Peter Mittan, Chauncey Mittan, James Miller, William Miller, Merritt Miller, Clement Miller, Frank Mills, Francis Mills, William Mills, Amos Noe, William Noe, Hamilton Nichols, Thomas Nickelson, William Nettleton, Benjamin Nettleton, Nathaniel Nettleton, Jacob Schwab, Alexander Schwab, Jacob Smuck, Charles Steinbrook, George Seymour, William Steele, Thomas Steele, John Shoudy, John Smith, James B. Smith, Bayard Smith, Alexander Smith, John Unger, David Vroman, Robert Vroman, Abram Van Patten, Irwin Vandeventer, William Vandeventer, Christopher C. Vandeventer, Jr., and Robert Wells.

In 1868, a Methodist Episcopal church was erected on the southwest corner of section 16, jointly by the Methodist, Congregationalist and United Brethren societies, and today is called the Twin Groves Methodist church. James and Amanda Thompson donated the ground. The trustees for the Methodist church were James Thompson, L. G. Durin, Henry Lewis, Aaron Smith and M. A. Rice. The building was 30x40 with a high spire, and it cost \$3,500. Besides the lot donated, James Thompson gave \$1,000 and his wife, Amanda, gave \$630 towards building. It was dedicated Nov. 9, 1868; Revs. F. A. Hardin and A. P. Beach conducted the services.

By the arrangement governing this church, made at the time,

it was agreed to permit each other denomination to use it; that if at any time the Methodists desired to control it exclusively, they might do so by returning to the donors of other societies the money these members had contributed.

The first regular Methodist preacher to occupy this pulpit was C. C. Combs, while Reverend Brewer officiated for the Congregationalists. Reverend Wendell was the first preacher for the United Brethren.

Among those who have followed are Reverends Young, Bender, two Lewises, for the United Brethren. Following Combs, are Curtis, Farmiloe, Stoddard, Davis, Hoffman, Tibbals, Record (1879).

In the winter of 1869, a protracted meeting was held here, lasting seven weeks, during which 130 conversions were made. Reverend Combs conducted it. Over one hundred united with his society. When he reached this circuit, the Methodists had only nine members, all women.

The Congregationalists and United Brethren have nearly all of them left the community.

The Congregational Society was formed about 1859. Among those who were original members were Ephraim Durin, Mrs. Durin, Mr. and Mrs. Harper B. Davenport, Woodbridge, Rev. and Mrs. James Brewer, Mr. and Mrs. Simon (or Simeon) Cole. Caleb M. Bacon became a member later. Reverend Brewer was the first preacher, Rev. Henry Buss the second, and the third and last was Reverend Breed. A salary of \$200 was paid the preacher and the services were held in the Twin Grove schoolhouse until the erection of the church.

In the spring of 1864, Rev. Jacob Fowler revived the Episcopal church, which had been in existence formerly, and he brought together about fifteen communicants. Under the fostering care of this gentleman, the church grew and prospered until about forty communicants attended regularly in the Ellsworth and Beemer-ville schoolhouses. Among the number of communicants were Winfield Argraves and Mrs. Argraves, Adam Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Argraves, Mr. and Mrs. Abram Rosenkrans, Lydia Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McCoy, Henry Abrams, Jephtha Mittan, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Koons and Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Beemer. This mission was attached to the Shabbona mission. In 1866, the vestry, with some outside help, built a church, 30x40, for \$2,600. This was dedicated Sunday, Aug. 6, 1866. Rev. Madison Handy became the second minister and he continued to keep the flock

together. But when Rev. A. C. Wallace came along, the beginning of the end appeared. He lost his congregation. When it owed him, in arrears, \$500 for salary, he obtained judgment against the church, sold the place to make his debt, bid it in himself and when the redemption ran out, he sold it to the United Brethren Society. As a matter of fact the church stands over the line into Wyoming township on the northwest of section 6. This society, which lived exclusively in Willow Creek, was organized in 1857 with twelve original members. The first pastor was Reverend Adams; the first class leader, Cummings Noe, and the first trustees were R. Hall, Cummings Noe and H. Lewis.

A German Lutheran church was organized in Willow Creek township at the Byrd schoolhouse by Rev. William Halleberg, in 1870. The families of the following persons became members: George Erbes, Ehrhard Hochstrasser, George Hochstrasser, Godfried Gehrig, Louis Gehrig, William Hackman, Henry Schultz, Jacob Rubel, Jacob Schoenholz and John Schoenholz.

Revs. William Halleberg, Charles Weinsch, John Feiertag, H. H. Norton, W. O. Oeting and W. Krebs have been ministers for this pulpit.

A society of Dunkards was organized in the Byrd schoolhouse in 1863, after meetings had been held around at various houses. The original members were John and Margaret Toft, Alva R. and Amanda Harp, William and Elizabeth Vroman and D. C. and Catherine Vroman. Rev. John Fillmore settled in the township soon after and he held services around at the Beemerville, Byrd and Twin Groves schoolhouses.

Allen's Grove had preaching of some kind from 1844. About 1848, the Presbyterians organized a society and maintained an existence for several years. Reverends Baker, Breed and another were the preachers.

A Methodist and a Baptist society were organized there too.

The Zion church of the Evangelical Association was organized by Rev. John F. Schnee, who continued as the first pastor. Some of his successors have been Revs. G. M. Young, John Schweitzer, A. Gotschel, A. Strickfaden, C. Ghestatter, J. K. Schultz, and J. J. Lintner.

At first, for six years prior to the organization in 1868, at the Byrd schoolhouse, regular preaching was had every two weeks by Rev. J. M. Sindlinger, Henry Messner or L. B. Tobias.

Some of the original members were William Dunkelberger and Mrs. Dunkelberger, John G. Yetter, Mr. and Mrs. John Yetter,



Mr. and Mrs. Philip Yetter, Mr. and Mrs. Gotlieb Hochstrasser, George Hochstrasser, Julia Yetter and Mary Hochstrasser. William Dunkelberger was first class leader. The first trustees were John Yetter, William Dunkelberger and J. L. Lutz. John Yetter was superintendent of the Sunday school for many years before his removal to Steward and later to Mount Morris.

On the southeast corner of section 5 a church building was erected in 1875 at a cost of \$3,000. Its dimensions are 32x46 and the same was dedicated by Bishop Jacob J. Escher.

The first services of the Catholic church were held at the house of Peter Kimbler about 1863. Father Westkam said mass. The first communicants were Peter Buchholz, Peter Schneider, John Herrmann, Joseph M. Herrmann, Frank Herrmann, Frank Bates, Thomas Down, Frank Bates, Jr., Peter Kimbler and six other families.

Father Westkam, who came over from Mendota, advised the building immediately of a church and almost \$2,000 was subscribed at once. The next year a church was built on the northwest corner of the southwest quarter of section 16. The main building was 26x40, with an addition which at times has been used as a parochial school. John Herrmann donated four acres of ground for cemetery purposes. The first priest who celebrated mass in the new church was Father Nigg of Mendota. Fathers Goldsmith, Gobbles, Anthon Butter, Frank Schreiber, Fralich, Joseph Baenak, and Charles Hahn have been subsequently installed in this parish.

By far the largest societies in Willow Creek township are the Norwegian Evangelical Churches. One is Southwest and the other Northwest.

This church was organized in the autumn of 1858, by the Reverend Didrikson, who made one visit to Bradford township. At first, the members were scattered widely apart; some in Sublette, others in Bradford, Lee Center and Willow Creek and meetings were held four times a year, around in the four different townships. After the church had been put into good working order, Rev. A. C. Preus, came and meetings were held more frequently and the members assembled at the Byrd and Twin Groves schoolhouses. After a little while, the Norwegians left their old settlements in the other townships and came to Willow Creek and Alto to live, and in 1864, over twenty families had gathered here to live. Among those who were first worshipers in this church were Amund Hillison, Lars Larson Risetter, Lars Salmonson, Jacob Oleson, Haldor Nelson, Jacob Peterson, Holden Peterson, Lars Oleson, William Oleson,



C. Christopher, Edwin Winterton, Lars Hillison, Haakon Risetter, Thomas Hillison, Christian Hillison Sexer, Amund Oleson Cragvick and the Boyds. Reverend Preus remained a year or two when he was succeeded by C. J. P. Peterson, under whose charge the church was built and the parochial school was established.

This beautiful church building, located in the northeast of section 11, arrests the eye from a long distance. It cost \$3,500. It is 35x60 with a fine spire. A parsonage with twenty acres of ground surrounding belongs to the church and is located on the northwest quarter of section 2. In 1870 it was bought for \$40 per acre. This latter building cost about \$1,700 and was built in 1875. A barn has been added.

First, Chicago, was the market for Willow Creek farmers. With the completion of the canal to LaSalle and Peru, the latter places were patronized. Seven days were consumed in the Chicago trip with horses.

The gristmills were at Dayton on Fox river, Dixon and Binghamton.

In Willow Creek buffalo bones were especially thick over the ground when the earliest settlers came in. It was thought that inasmuch as they were more numerous in low places, the animals must have been driven there for forage during the cold winter of 1830-31, and unable to get out of the blinding storms, were frozen to death in great numbers. This, however, is not true. In 1825 no buffaloes were seen in Northern Illinois by the settlers or the suckers going to and from the mines at Galena.

“The tornado of Sunday, June 3, 1860, struck this township about 9 o'clock at night, midway of the west line of section 18. William Cutts was within eighty rods of it when it left the township; he says the noise was not unlike the rattle and clatter of a freight train when standing close to it, except that the former was more tremendous in volume. Boards, plows, harrows, timbers, reapers, stoves, furniture, earth, stones, animals,—everything that it could gather in its way, was whirling, dashing and crashing with a thundering roar and force that filled the ear with a sound of picturesque terror as much as if heaven and earth were battling for the same space at once. Andrew Stubbs, standing out of its range, as it went by, saw it first, several miles west and describes its appearance as it approached and passed.

“The night was moonlit, and from where he watched the tempest, the moon was visible throughout. Massive pillars of flaming cloud were piled from earth to sky; the top was a sheet of flame;

shafts of electricity as large to the view as a stovepipe, poured in hideous currents down the seething mass of inky blackness, presenting a sight of sublime horror.

“The first house in Willow Creek which received its fury was Abram Miller’s near the township line. It was unroofed, then taken up, carried over the well and the stable, but failing to clear a straw stack, was overturned and scattered in all directions. The occupants were Mr. Miller and two children. The mother lay some time under a part of the roof in an insensible condition, having sustained considerable injuries. None of the others were much harmed. The children, sound asleep in their beds when the shock occurred, were thrown twenty-five rods into a wheat field, where one of the little fellows was found shouting lustily that all the windows were broken out. A tin boiler standing beside the house, full of water, was not disturbed; and a book of receipts, brought from Iowa, was picked up on the farm. Gilbert E. Durin’s place was the second reached. His house stood nearly out of the path of the electric monster, but a small addition was snatched away and dashed into fragments. James Nealis and another man were blown into the tops of some locusts in the dooryard, and the former was cut so badly in the thigh on a scythe hanging upon a limb, that he bled nearly to death. A. N. Dow’s premises were the next to suffer. His house was seized as if it had been a toy, carried into the air and turned roof downward, going to pieces in utter wreck. Eight persons composed this family, and all were more or less hurt, one child having an arm broken.

“The moving column raised slightly at Twin Groves, through the south one of which it tore a gap ten to twenty rods wide, leaving the undergrowth but little disturbed, while twisting, splintering and interlacing the taller trees, mostly stalwart black walnuts, in the wildest disorder. The damage to the timber fell chiefly on William Smith. Thompson’s house, a very heavy structure, was unroofed, and the large building moved on its foundation. His strong cornerib and two log stables shared the general ruin. A man named Scheiler, living on Thompson’s land, had his house demolished, and all seven of the family were severely injured, and horribly begrimed, as if violently rolled and dragged in fine dirt.

“From this point to section 14, lay a stretch of prairie, and no injury to life and little damage to property was done; but there a house belonging to William Bacon, occupied by Allen Johnson and his sister, Norwegians, was wrecked. The inmates, on the first

appearance of the storm, had luckily gone to a neighbor's, and thus escaped its terrors.

"The county line was reached midway of section 13, and here at Allen McConeky's the most painful destruction was accomplished. It was now between 9 and 10, and the family had retired. Rain had been falling hard but calmly before the crash came, and Mrs. McConeky arose to attend to keeping the rain out of the windows. The wind began to rise, and in a few moments so increased that she remarked to her husband that the house would blow away. He sprang to her side at the window, and at that instant, she relates, she saw the east side of the house coming in upon them, but can remember nothing more, save that she was conscious of lying on the ground with a heavy weight resting upon her body. The house was shivered to atoms. Mr. McConeky was killed outright, also the eldest and the youngest boys. Another little son was terribly bruised and all hope of his recovery was for some time abandoned. Mrs. McConeky had an arm broken. Horses and cattle were killed here as elsewhere in the path of the destroyer.

"In the vicinity a boulder weighing half a ton was lifted from the ground and carried some distance; but the most curious exhibition of power was at the point where the storm ended its work, three-fourths of a mile east of the county line. At this place was a piece of newly broken prairie. The furrows lay parallel with the direction of the tornado, and the tough sods were lapped up, twirled into a close body, and deposited forward in a pile of ten or twelve wagon loads. As if glutted with disaster, the storm now raised, and carrying on its dismal and solitary energies high up in the air, moved on to Lake Michigan, where it lost its identity."

Besides churchyards and several private burying grounds in Willow Creek township, there are two beautiful cemeteries, both kept beautifully. One is the Ellsworth cemetery and the other is the Twin Groves cemetery. The first named is located on the south side of the public road in section 34 and took its name from Isaac C. Ellsworth on whose farm it was laid out. The other is located on the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 17, adjoining the public road on a gentle rise of ground which sets off nicely the handsome monuments which have been erected there.

This chapter should not be dismissed without recording the little beginnings of things in the village of Lee, now so prosperous.

The Chicago & Iowa railroad was completed to this point in the autumn of 1871. The county line between Lee and DeKalb



counties runs north and south through the middle of the principal street in Lee although the major part of Lee is located in Lee county, including the postoffice.

It is built on the southeast quarter of section 1, which brings it right up in the northeast corner of the town of Willow Creek. Norwegians today dominate its affairs just as they did when the place was platted. The first little building put up was by Christopher & Jorgens and was used for a grain office and grocery. At about the same time J. Cheesebro built an office and began buying grain and dealing in coal, and lumber. Both offices were completed before snow fell, but they did no business until after New Years day. R. J. White built the first store in the spring of 1872 on the northeast corner of Main and B streets, and soon after, when the postoffice was established, he was appointed postmaster. He had a partner named Knight who sold out his interest to one A. B. Trask, who sold out to Henry Moore and he in turn sold out to W. H. Bryant. The new firm then added a line of farm machinery to their stock. In 1874 White retired and Bryant received the appointment of postmaster. After three years of trade he sold out the store and thereafter dealt only in agricultural implements.

Next after White, J. Johnson started a general store on the west side on Main street, between A and B streets. In July, 1872, the railroad switch was finished and freight began to move in and out and Lee began to boom. Abel Downer opened the third general store which included a stock of drugs, on the southwest corner of Main and B streets. During the same season, Ostewig and Leyder started a hardware store.

James Minnehan built the first dwelling in 1872. The next March W. H. Emmett erected the second, and in 1874, others went up rapidly, including that of Mr. Christopher, east of the track.

Frank Bacon built a hotel on B street in the early winter of 1872-73. In 1874 A. B. Trask built the second which has outlived the first one. Trask's was called the Clifton House.

The North elevator was built by J. Cheesebro in the fall of 1872, and immediately following, Christopher & Jorgens erected another to the south. The first butcher shop was opened on B street east of the track, in 1872. Next year, William Finton moved it over onto Main street, north of B.

Miss Margaret Edsall was the first milliner and dressmaker and opened her rooms in 1873. Lars Helland erected a wagon shop and



Iverson & Espe a blacksmith shop. These were built on the east side.

In 1873 N. D. Schoenholz built a harness shop, Lars Larson Risetter built a store and dwelling on the southeast corner of Main and B streets, Lars Midnes a notion store, Knudt Tyler started a photograph studio and Trask, a store and dwelling, first occupied by C. H. Rathbun.

Stevens & Prestegaard built a hardware store on Main street in 1875. In the same year, B. H. Skoyles began the erection of a gristmill which was finished next year. In 1879 Christopher & Jorgens enlarged their elevator, put in a stationary engine and added wood-working works. On the northeast corner of Main and B streets, Sardis Vosburgh built in 1881, a handsome brick store, the first one built in Lee.

In 1874 the village was incorporated and the first board of trustees were James G. Boardman, Arthur McLane, William R. Baumbach, A. B. Trask and W. H. Bryant. On Aug. 11th they held their first meeting. McLane was chosen president and John Johnson clerk of the board.

The first school in Lee was opened in the Dyas building in December, 1874, with W. H. Emmett as teacher. In the summer of 1875, Miss Eva Bryant taught the school in the Midnes building. In the spring of 1876, Miss Margaret Edsall taught it in the shop she had occupied formerly as her millinery and dressmaking establishment. In that summer the schoolhouse was built. In this new school building, Miss Hampton taught the first school or term. J. L. Johnson, Miss Mary Griffin, J. W. Shanks, William H. Hallet and Mrs. George Lattin followed. Henry E. Daniels, Charles Childs and A. B. Trask were the first directors.

The first public talk made in Lee was given by a Jew, who had changed his name to Professor Ryder,—in the Dyas building. On the same day a union Sunday school was organized in the same room. This room had formerly been used for saloon purposes and when Ryder spoke, planks were placed across the heads of some beer kegs which never had been removed, and right across those same seats this first and very successful Sunday school was organized. At this same time, preaching was begun in Lee by Reverend Nicholson of Shabbona for the Methodists and Reverend Clouse from the same place for the Baptists. The next summer the religious meetings and the Sunday schools were removed to the Midnes building and there they remained until the schoolhouse was erected in 1876. There the two denominations, Methodists and

Baptists, held alternate services until the Methodists built a church and in that the same alternate services were held for some time. Elder Clouse preached there until 1879 for the Baptists. He was succeeded by Rev. E. W. Hicks. The Methodist ministers have been: Pomeroy, A. B. Mettler, A. B. Dickens and W. H. Records.

W. H. Emmett was the first Sunday school superintendent. Then it lapsed for a while, and Samuel Henderson revived it.

The Methodist church was built in 1877 and was dedicated Dec. 30th, of that year. Its cost was about two thousand dollars. It is a building, Gothic in style, 28x42, with a spire. It stands on the DeKalb county side of the village.

The Catholic church, built at Lee, stands just to the west of the business part of the village. It is a fine building, 40x60.

Before this church was built, Twin Groves to the west was the only place at all near-by, where services were had and there they were held but once a month. At Rochelle, thirteen miles north; at DeKalb, eighteen miles to the northeast, and at Sandwich, twenty miles to the east, were the nearest Catholic churches. In the spring of 1878, M. P. Harris, John Kennedy, James Kirby and Bernard Malloy began an active campaign for building a church suitable for the many communicants of the neighborhood. Kirby was designated to act as treasurer and Harris as secretary, to see the Catholics and enlist their co-operation. Cash in those days was not plentiful, but those who desired a church, were financially good in every way. In three days \$3,000 in good notes bearing 10 per cent interest, were secured. John Kennedy, James Kirby and Stephen Kirby divided these notes equally as collateral and each advanced the sum of \$1,000. Then the men first named went forward and built the church. John Kennedy gave one acre of ground and \$500 in money which constituted the largest contribution made by any one individual. The church cost \$3,200. In the fall of 1878, it was dedicated by Rev. Father Verdin, vice president of St. Ignatius College, Chicago. Father Edwards was the first priest in charge. At first, services were held there but every other Sunday. Now the parish has a resident priest and regular services are held and the congregation is a very large one.

Six years ago, the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad Company, desiring to enter the coal fields to the southwest, in order to supply the needs of the company, determined to run a line of road through Lee county for the purpose. Under a leasing agreement with the Burlington, they were permitted to run over the Burlington line from Steward to Rochelle. From Steward southerly, the

St. Paul road directed its course. It has been said that the promoters of the road desired to penetrate Compton and we are told that overtures were made to that village with a view to secure the right of way.

Like so many other places, contented with the present and under the impression that they are secure in their trade without other roads to establish other villages near and thus divide trade, those citizens, so the story runs, declined to assist the road. On the contrary, some resistance was manifested to the plans of the company. Just how true these rumors are, I cannot state. But they are so characteristically human and have been repeated unprofitably so many times in history that color at least may be given them.

At all events, the company went in its course just about a mile and a half to the east and established the station of Roxbury where grain is bought and shipped in large quantities, and all at the expense of Compton. I must say, however, in justice to Compton, that the company also established a station about six miles north of Roxbury, called Scarboro and this little station has picked up an enormous trade, especially in grain and coal. Topographically, Scarboro, in Willow Creek, is so situated that from the east at least, it is so easy to haul down hill to Scarboro, that farmers almost from the doors of the Lee elevators bring grain to Scarboro to market. From the rich Viola country to the west, of course, it attracts all the grain raised there and Steward, for so many years a million bushel point, has decreased at least 40 per cent on account of the inroads made by Scarboro. And this charming little village now markets something like half a million bushels of grain every year.

P. J. Schoenholz operates the first and oldest store, a general one, and Carl C. Fisher, the other. My genial old friend, H. D. Riley presides at the anvil and forge of Scarboro's solitary blacksmith shop and it pleases me to note that he is doing a prosperous business.

The freight receipts at this station are said to be as large as those of any other village in the county of twice its size. Mr. William H. Webber, one of Viola's biggest farmers, tells me that as a live stock shipping point, it does a splendid business. Two large elevators here care for the grain. Shearer Brothers of Steward, foreseeing the inroads Scarboro was likely to make in their Steward business, promptly built an elevator in Scarboro. The Neola people have the other.

The Evangelical church about which we have read in other pages found itself located right in the midst of the village when Scarboro was laid out. This is a beautiful church, built with every arrangement for comfort. A perfect kitchen has been built in the basement which also includes the added features of a dining room and in this admirable room suppers are given frequently. Last Fourth of July, when the Scarboro folks held a big celebration, the ladies of the church fed large numbers and did it in a manner altogether astonishing. And a better dinner never was served. The Scarboro school stands just to the south. About half a mile, farther to the south, one of the beautiful Twin Groves stands. Through it Willow creek runs and there picnics and gatherings just like the one on the last Fourth, are held. It is an ideal spot.

In this beautiful little bit of a village, you will find the very highest specimens of the builder's art, improved with every modern convenience. Electricity, steam heat, baths, hot and cold water, in the houses; cement sidewalks; and all the village surrounded with lands which can hardly be valued. Only a little while ago, Mr. Henry B. Cobb, of Viola, living just a little way to the west, learned that a certain farm might be bought. It lay near his big tract of Viola land and he bought it without regard to price. Three hundred dollars per acre was the price; over fifty thousand dollars and the money, cash in hand, was paid down. Verily prosperity dwells around Scarboro, possibly the smallest village in the county. At all events, the youngest, yet one of the richest and prettiest. And it is located in Willow Creek township; old Twin Groves!







PUBLIC SCHOOL, PAW PAW



OLD LOG CABIN BUILT IN 1837, PAW PAW

## CHAPTER XXXVIII

### WYOMING TOWNSHIP

Third from Dixon on the old Chicago road came Paw Paw Station, named from the paw paw grove of the early days.

This township probably contained more Indians in the year 1834, when the whites began to penetrate Lee county, than any other township in the county. Of course then there were no townships. I speak of the six mile area, which subsequently constituted the Government township.

When the treaty of Prairie du Chien was negotiated July 29, 1829, by Gen. John McNeil, Col. Pierre Menard and Caleb Atwater, with the Pottawatomic Indians, a considerable portion of the lands granted were located in and near Wyoming township. First of course comes our old friend, Shabbona, called in the treaty, Shabeh-nay. He was given two sections "at his village near the Paw-paw Grove." This grant was over the county line into DeKalb county, just a little ways.

Madeline Ogee, wife of Joseph Ogee, was given "one section west of and adjoining the tract herein granted to Pierre Leclerc, at the Paw-paw Grove." The Leclerc tract granted was, "To Pierre Leclerc, one section at the village of the As-sim-in-eh-Kon, or Paw-paw Grove." Thus we get therein the Indian name for the grove. By some misconception the grant always has been called the LeClere or LeClair section. The statutes from which I quote, plainly enough spell the name several times "Leclerc."

The Ogee section, its acreage and its fate already have been stated in that portion of this work devoted to Ogee.

By reason of its early association with Indians, particularly Shabbona, Paw Paw, in the eye of the author always has possessed a sort of romantic life. His boyhood associations, just over the line into DeKalb county, in Paw Paw township, too, have tended to

make him regard Paw Paw village with that affection which, germinated in childhood, never loses its hold in after years.

At the organization of the county, Wyoming was in Inlet precinct. Paw Paw Grove attracted the settlers. The native forests of giant oaks in this township presented to the eye of the settler a never ending supply of fuel. With the beginning of townships in 1850, it was named Paw Paw, and so it should have remained, but owing to the imaginary confusion, which was feared would result from the adjoining town in DeKalb county, bearing the same name, it was changed to Wyoming. Tradition says lots were drawn to see which town should have it.

Over east, partly in Lee county and partly in DeKalb county, there was erected the village of East Paw Paw, once the most promising and prosperous place between Dixon and Chicago. In Wyoming township, the present village, west of the grove, was called Paw Paw Grove or West Paw Paw, and on Aug. 1, 1871, it was platted as Paw Paw Grove.

One other village, in section 24 on the DeKalb county line, sprang up, designated South Paw Paw or LeClair Postoffice, though it never was platted. Thus it will be seen that a multiplicity of Paw Paws had sprung up. To simplify the matter, James Goble, of that township, subsequently sheriff, suggested that because so many of the early settlers came from the Wyoming valley in Pennsylvania, that Wyoming be adopted as the name. Accordingly, Isaac Harding, Warren Badger and Lorenzo Wood, constituting the county commissioners court, changed the name to Wyoming, and on May 14, 1851, the board of supervisors officially ordered that "the township formerly called Paw Paw, shall hereafter be called Wyoming."

The paw paw grew luxuriantly here in early years. This tract of timber covered over two thousand acres then. Much like Palmyra township, the grove contained thousands of black walnut trees, hard maple oak, hickory, cottonwood, butternut and sycamore, plums, blackberries and gooseberries grew plentifully. On the east side not far from the county line, was a beautiful spring of rare water. At the northwest corner was another. This latter fed Paw Paw creek which runs from the northwest corner in a southeasterly direction and joins Indian creek, which flows on into the Illinois river.

In the winter of 1833-34, Levi Kelsey with Joel Griggs made a claim and built a house in Paw Paw Grove. But fearing he might



be on one of the Indian reservations, Mr. Kelsey in March, 1834, left and went on to Troy.

When later David A. Town came along in the fall of 1834, he went down to see Kelsey about the claim. Mrs. Kelsey came out in September, 1834, and she has related many stories about the Indians.

The Indians induced Griggs to cut many trees with the expectation of finding honey. When after many failures he declined to continue, they tried to induce Mr. Kelsey, but he declined peremptorily. For his decision, he was dubbed "good she-mo-ka man," while Griggs was called "she-mo-ka man, ishmoba," no good. Kelsey came before Griggs, but they built the house together. The two were partners and by a subsequent look at Kelsey's diary, it has been found that he located there Jan. 20, 1834.

Tracy Reeve of Princeton, in May, 1834, went to the grove with three other men, to locate claims, but believing it all to be included in the reservations, they slept in Indian huts over night, during which a fearful storm raged. Next day they went to Troy Grove, the nearest settlement. This party did not meet a solitary person, red or white, at Paw Paw Grove.

I suppose some little detail of past history about these two, Kelsey and Reeve, might be interesting especially about Kelsey. His wife wrote that Mr. Kelsey came west in the fall of 1828. He peddled clocks in Mississippi, Arkansas, Louisiana and other southern states. During his travels he was taken sick many times. Once at Alexandria, a man in bed beside him died. He went on to St. Louis, where he was quite ill all winter. At Palmyra, Illinois, he studied with a physician. Gravitating back to St. Louis he found himself in miserable health when the cholera broke out in 1832. When well enough, he took a peddler's pack and started to peddle Yankee notions for a St. Louis firm. He was in that employment when he entered Paw Paw Grove and became its first squatter.

On the return of Reeve, he attempted to cross a creek swollen by the floods. In this effort his wagon tipped over and he turned a somersault over the dashboard.

Next morning when desiring to pay his tavern bill he found his money, about eight dollars in silver, had disappeared. Retracing his course, he found it and was about to return to Troy Grove when a band of about thirty Indians overtook him.

Mr. Reeve was not the man to lose his nerve. He said "Good morning" to them in the Indian language, after which the Indians

with a hearty laugh, permitted his departure in peace. They told him in expecting to scare him, they had anticipated a rare treat. But he did not scare, and that ended his effort at settlement in Lee county.

In characterizing a person as the first settler of a community, actual and continuous settlement should be considered. The man who enters a country first and tarries a brief period and then leaves, might be called more properly, a discoverer or visitor.

To Daniel A. Town belongs the distinction of becoming the first settler of Paw Paw Grove; it was in the autumn of 1834. He built his log house on the southeast side of the grove; a 16x18 affair, with the door in the east end, a six-light window in the west end and a big chimney and fireplace in the north end. The chimney like all the first ones was built on the outside, of split sticks, laid cob fashion, plastered between and lined inside with mud or clay.

There was a floor in this cabin, made of boards split from logs and dressed by a broad-axe. The roof was made of shakes, split, about three feet long and four or five inches wide and laid double. Poles laid lengthwise held them up, and poles outside held them down. O. P. Johnson, later of Brooklyn, helped make this house and he says he and three others built it in a day and a half.

That fall, Mr. Town broke about twenty acres of prairie and sowed it to winter wheat.

Later he bought part of the Ogee section of Mrs. Alcott in the manner set forth in the chapter devoted to Ogee. On this claim, he built his second house at the north end of the grove.

With Mr. Town came his wife, and four children: George, Martha, David A., Jr., and Sarah. It is said of him that when applied to for the sale of seed grain at a high price, he would refuse, saying, "You are able to buy elsewhere; I have needy neighbors to whom I must give this."

He was a large, powerful man; a leader; wanted to be recognized as such; tipped very moderately; resolute and fearless.

Once a stranger came to him to ask the direction to a certain place. Given him, the stranger took the opposite direction. This Mr. Town did not like; so he overtook the stranger, wormed the story out of him that he was a counterfeiter; took away his dies, and got him sent to the penitentiary.

David A. Town was the terror to horse thieves and the banditti, and for that more than any other reason, early Paw Paw was not much disturbed. Inlet to the west and East Paw Paw to the east

were the places most frequented by them. When the township was organized, Mr. Town became its first supervisor.

Very soon the Harris, Butterfield, Ploss and Wilcox people came along, all related or intermarried. They came in one colony from Michigan with Rev. Benoni Harris, then over seventy, as its head. Eight adult children of the latter came too.

Mr. Town died in 1861 and he and Mrs. Town are buried in the cemetery half a mile south of town.

The dwelling occupied by those colonists, was a double log cabin, built on their arrival. Later, Mr. Harris built the first frame house at the grove. Mrs. Harris was the first to die in this new settlement.

In the spring of 1835, Edward Butterfield, who married one of Mr. Harris' daughters, came to the west end of the grove and made a claim on the southeast of 10 and thereon he built a cabin, on the south side of the Chicago road. It was the first house on the west side; it was located on the first claim; it was the home of the first married couple; it was the first store and it was the first house to be burned.

John Ploss, another son-in-law of Reverend Harris, made the first settlement on the south side of the grove; but he did not remain long. In the autumn, he returned to Michigan. His settlement was called South Paw Paw.

The first stage house and tavern was built on the Chicago road, about midway between the two Paw Paws, east and west, by Isaac or Asabel Balding. This man sold it to William Rogers; he to Dick Allen; he to John Simms, who mortgaged it for \$400 to get out of the Chicago jail, his son John, who was held there for passing bogus money.

At this point the Ogee and Leclerc sections may as well be noticed and then passed up. In 1836 Job Alcott located and built his cabin on the south side of the Chicago road not far from East Paw Paw. After his marriage with Madeline Ogee, he sold the west half of the section to David A. Town for \$1,000 in silver, and later he sold the east half to William Rogers. After great trouble, William McMahan found the witness trees marked OG and forthwith he platted the land. Before that time Willard Hastings had platted it, but because it had not been recorded, no end of trouble was encountered.

Charles Morgan, from Virginia, settled just west of East Paw Paw. Like so many others, he was a powerful man; more powerful

than any of the others. He lived here until about 1850. He opened a tavern in his house which was located next west of Alcott's place. Alcott by the way, was from Ohio. After Alcott had remained a few years he sold his place to a man named Musselman, who built the famous Hallow House on the premises, noted for years, for its dancing house and bar.

Alcott then went with his wife Madeline to Missouri where the Pottawatomie Indians were located.

By a letter dated Sept. 19, 1913, signed by the commissioner of Indian Affairs, I am told concerning Alcott's deeds, "One of the deeds conveying part of this reserve, was signed by Job Alcott, as the husband of Madeline. In the other two deeds, he signs by mark as Job P. Alcott, the husband of Madeline. These three deeds which were all approved April 17, 1844, conveyed 620 acres."

Thus after long research, I have solved the Ogee-Alcott mysteries. Ogee was alive in 1838 at Dixon's Ferry. He died soon after and was buried, first near the corner of First street and Peoria avenue (southeast corner); then many years afterwards when his bones were discovered, they were interred in Oakwood cemetery.

But I must not conclude without giving what the Lee county records show. Job P. Alcott and Madeline his wife, conveyed by warranty deed to William Rogers, "A certain tract or parcel of land known and described as the northeast corner of a certain tract of land given to said Madeline, a Pottawatomie woman, then the wife of Joseph Ogee, under the 4th article of the treaty of Prairie du Chien, of the 29th of July, A. D. 1829, containing eighty acres. This deed was dated Nov. 14, 1842; the consideration was \$800; it was acknowledged Nov. 14, 1842, before Noah Leabo, a justice of the peace in and for Holt county, Missouri.

A certificate of magistracy was attached and the deed was recorded in book A of deeds on pages 397-9.

A modern description would read, the "East half of the northeast quarter." On the same date, Alcott and wife conveyed to the same party for \$1,250, "the east half of said grant of one section of land, under said treaty exclusive of a lot of eighty acres of said half section of land already in possession of said William Rogers and this day by us conveyed to him, it being the intention of the said Job and Madeline Alcott, to convey to said Rogers 220 acres more or less of said east half of said land." 80 and 220 made 300 acres.

This deed bore the same date and was acknowledged as before



noticed and was recorded in the same book A. The Town deed was recorded later. These deeds simply confirmed previous sales.

Town bought the other half. To repeat his conveyance would be tiresome. I simply give these dates to show that in 1842, Alcott had left Lee county and that at best he could not have lived more than six years in Lee county. But I think I have got the dates down still closer; Mr. David Smith who came to Willow Creek when six years old in the year 1837 says by letter dated Oct. 8, 1913, that in that year of 1837, Alcott was living on his claim near Paw Paw. That he believes Alcott and Morgan lived in the same house, and that Alcott's wife was an Indian woman. Mr. Smith also has the impression that Alcott and Morgan were related. Further than this, Mr. Smith is positive that Alcott left the next spring of 1838.

Mr. Smith never has made a mistake in his statements of early Lee county history, so that we may put it down that between 1836 and 1838 Alcott was Madeline's husband, and that in 1838 he left the country with his wife and was living with her so late as 1844, in Holt county, Missouri.

The Leclerc section was surveyed in 1843 by Wheeler Hedges and the plat was recorded at once. Samuel J. Best and August Wiley are said to have purchased the LeClair or Leclerc section, at \$2.25 per acre.

On July 4, 1836, Samuel McDowell was married to Miss Delilah Harris. This was the first wedding and Shabbona, the Indian chief, was one of the invited guests. After the wedding the men went into the grove and cut a liberty pole and carrying it back, fastened a flag to it and erected it, the first function of the kind performed in Lee county.

The second wedding was that of George Town and Fidelia Sawyer, Dec. 13, 1836. Some histories claim this was the first wedding celebrated in Wyoming; that the other was over the line.

A week later, Dec. 20, a remarkably cold day, Levi Carter was married to Mrs. Gillette, a widow.

Rev. Benoni Harris officiated at all of these weddings.

Wareham or Wiram Gates, dubbed "Bogus" Gates, frequented this Morgan tavern. What was called the box game was played there extensively. To quote an authority, "Supposing bogus money could be bought at a liberal discount, and an applicant would come for it. A sample box of the 'stuff,' which was good money, in layers of sand, would be shown, with the remark that the negotiation could be arranged and the price paid, but delivery of

the base coin would only be made by being placed at the foot of a certain tree at 10 o'clock at night; but when the buyer came to the rendezvous in the darkness, confederates of the other party would cry out, 'Here he is; now we'll fix him!' and discharges of firearms and other alarms would cause the person who came, to flee in terror, without getting what he bargained for."

Bogus Gates protested his innocence always, but some of the bad coin was found dangerously close to his house and too, two horse thieves, with the property in their possession, were caught at his premises.

In this township there are four cemeteries. Willard Hastings donated the ground for the first one. The Presbyterians own another called Cottage Hill. The Baptists at South Paw Paw own another, and near the old Lester Harding place is another. It is a sad commentary to notice the disaster time has wrought with many of the markers over the graves, although latterly, efforts have been made to repair them.

The first schoolhouse built of poles, in 1836, on what later became the Meade farm, not more than 12x12, was taught by Emily Giles from Fox river. She received \$1 per week and boarded round. Tuition was paid for by subscription. Mrs. Andrew Breese also taught there. This schoolhouse was located on the north side of the road. The first school, however, was held in a log house on the north side of the Dixon road. One of the teachers was a traveling Irishman who had been highly educated. He had a remarkable memory and could quote the poets ad libitum. But the poor fellow drank heavily like so many of the first itinerant schoolmasters.

Vacated cabins and private houses were used at one time and another, too, in which to hold schools. Among the early teachers were Robert Walker, Adams, Willard Hastings, Deacon Boardman, Walter Hyde, Basswood, Mary Harding, Mrs. Amasa Harrington, Elisha A. Stanton, and Mrs. Andrew Breese, before her marriage. Walker who came here with May and Breese in 1841, taught in the Comstock blacksmith shop until about the year 1846.

The first frame school building was built as early as 1846 near the location of the creamery subsequently, in Paw Paw. About 1848 the country was divided into districts and about 1860, district No. 1 was graded.

Benoni Harris preached at different times as early as the winter of 1834-35, in his son's cabin. In 1839 the venerable Father Morris preached around in some of the different cabins. About the same

time, the circuit preachers came along; among the first were Peter Cartwright, Elders White, Lumery, Alonzo Carter, and Batchelder, all Methodists; and Elders Carpenter, Charles Harding, and Norman Warriner, who were Baptists. The appearance of the average circuit rider was about once in three months.

The first postmaster was William Rogers. The mail was carried along this route as early as 1834, but in 1837 a star route was established. Before an office was opened here, Somonauk, fifteen miles to the east, was the common postoffice for the settlers. Isaac Robinson was postmaster along about 1838 or 1839. In 1841, Willard Hastings was postmaster. He kept a store and tavern and carried the mail from Paw Paw to Princeton via the Four Mile grove. By reason of the junction of the roads at Paw Paw, the place enjoyed a considerable boom for many years. J. D. Rogers was another mail carrier. Among some of the other early postmasters were Hiram Wood, William H. Robinson, James Simons and John Colvill.

The first hedge raised in Lee county was grown in Wyoming township on the west line of section 21 and was grown by Ira Baker.

Wyoming was organized in 1850, like so many other townships, under the name of Paw Paw. The first town meeting to elect officers was held at schoolhouse number 5, at which 113 votes were cast. David A. Town was selected supervisor and John Colvill was elected town clerk. As already stated the name soon was changed to Wyoming.

George Town's house was built of hewn logs and was the second one to be built on the town site of Paw Paw, in 1837. Edward Butterfield's, built in 1835, was the first.

In 1841 the little grocery burned down and for a considerable period thereafter there was no store in Paw Paw. Peddlers during this period did a thriving business. So late as the spring of 1847, the place contained but half a dozen families and its business interests all were comprised in the smithy and a shingle mill. But beginning with this year the settlers came in rapidly and the place showed rapid improvement. The peddlers began to look elsewhere, although the peddler performed a useful mission in those days. One of them, William H. Field, traveled that territory from 1843. Among the first business men to locate in Paw Paw were John Colvill and Jacob Rogers, "Prairie," who ran the shingle mill. Dr. J. C. Heath, from Somonauk, was the first physician to locate there, sometime between 1846 and 1849. In the last named year,



he was in the drug business. Subsequently he erected two buildings in the village.

Field and Robinson put up a building and began merchandising in the fall of 1848. In a year or so they dissolved and Field erected a building of his own and went into business.

As early as 1841, Charles Pelcher burned brick at the east end of the grove and Mr. Hastings was the first to build a brick house from the product.

Charles Pelcher erected four brick houses along about the years 1847-49.

Mechanics moved in. Here as in all other places, the blacksmith was the prosperous man. Among the earlies were the Walton brothers. Sylvester Smith was a shoemaker and Eri Butler was an early wagon maker. In 1849 Isaac Morris began his career as shoemaker. John Allen was an early carpenter. Alonzo Osborn and James Symonds built places and did a flourishing business in the manufacture of wagons and plows. As many as five fires were kept burning all the time. William Cole, Thomas Webster, Bunker, Leonard Bell and Major Morse all worked over the anvil there in early times. But L. H. Flagg was the most distinguished. His voice was a deep bass, very sweet and he was a famous singer. For almost a lifetime he continued as justice of the peace in Paw Paw and between him and John Colvill all the legal papers of the countryside were made by them. After 1850 John Colvill was an active merchant. He built several buildings.

Andrew Breese opened a dry-goods store here in 1852. Of course there were many others coming and going, but those already named were the first ones and about the only ones history has to do with.

Paw Paw always has enjoyed first-class newspapers. Nov. 23, 1877, R. H. Ruggles issued the first number of the *Herald*. In January, 1878, Ezra G. Cass and J. B. Gardner, took it over, but on February 22, W. M. Geddes took charge of it, and on March 21, 1878, Messrs. Cass and Gardner issued the first number of the *Lee County Times*. At about the same time these gentlemen started the *Lee Monitor* and the *Compton Record*. In August Gardner dropped out of the partnership and Mr. Cass continued. In April, 1880, he started the *Earlville Leader*.

Ezra Cass was a remarkable man in many ways. When he started the papers in Paw Paw he was but nineteen years old. Not very long after his Earlville venture he died of consumption. Many have said he worked himself to death to win success.



The Baptist Church was organized at the house of Deacon Orlando Boardman, at South Paw Paw, in February, 1841. There were present at the meeting, Elder Burton Carpenter, from Dixon; Elder Thomas Powell from Vermilion, and Elder Hadley from LaMoille. Elder Carpenter preached the organization sermon and Elder Powell preached the second sermon. Thirteen members composed that first organization meeting. Elder Carpenter preached about two months and he was succeeded by Elder Charles Harding, who was the first regularly installed preacher. He resided at Indian Creek and supplied the pulpits at Paw Paw, Ottawa, Dayton, Indian Creek and Paw Paw. Rev. Norman Warriner was the second minister, and he continued for twenty years. In South Paw Paw, a house of worship was erected during the pastorate of Mr. Warriner, 24x36. Deacon Orlando Boardman contributed most of the cost. Towards the close of Mr. Warriner's pastorate another church building, 36x60 was built in 1864 and in 1873 it was moved to Paw Paw and remodeled.

About 1870 the Presbyterian worshipers began holding meetings in the schoolhouse and Rev. Alexander S. Peck preached for them regularly every two weeks. In May, 1873, the society was duly organized and in 1875 their new church at a cost of \$1,900 was built.

In 1869 the Methodists met at the schoolhouse where Elder Lazenby preached. In the year 1875 under the work of Reverend Pomeroy, their church was built. In 1857 the Cottage Hill or Wyoming Presbyterian Society was organized. In 1858 a building, 20x40 was built. In 1863 to care for the increased numbers, this building was sold and a larger church building 36x60 with a steeple eighty feet high, was built at a cost of \$2,000.

The first Sunday school at the grove was instituted by the Rev. Benoni Harris in the little Mead schoolhouse; the second one at the Robert Walker schoolhouse and the third in the frame schoolhouse near the big spring. The first Sunday school picnic was held about the time of the organization of this last one and was attended with much pomp. James Goble was marshal of the day, and Elder O. W. Bryant orator.

The settlers of Wyoming were very much like the settlers of the other settlements and many are the yarns which have been spun about them. To repeat them all would take several volumes.

Jacob D. Rogers came from Pennsylvania and settled at Paw Paw in 1837. He was a powerful man. On one of his trips to Chicago, the merchant of whom he had bought a barrel of salt

excused himself from assisting to lift it into the wagon. To show his disgust, Rogers lifted the barrel up and tossed it into the wagon. He was a member of the vigilance committee and no member of the banditti ever attempted to become familiar with him or his property.

At another time he desired his hired men to throw five three-bushel sacks of oats into the wagon. They suggested that the wagon might be driven to the barn for the purpose. Mr. Rogers threw one sack on one shoulder; another sack on the other shoulder and then had the men add a sack more to each shoulder, and then the fifth was put up as a rider, making a dead weight of 480 pounds. To emphasize his disgust, he remarked, "If either one of you men is too lazy to walk across the road, I will carry him on top, if the other has ambition enough to put him there."

He was a free talker and if he ever had any troubles, they arose from the propensity to criticise whenever it was needed.

He maintained an underground station for the escape of slaves. In those days most of the school teachers were drunken fellows. Mr. Rogers disliked them so cordially that he built a log school-house, hired a teacher and joined with others to fill it.

During this early period the Indians were very friendly. Wau-bansie, a noted chief, and a great friend to Shabbona, was located at the grove when the settlers began to arrive. He was not so susceptible to civilizing influences as Shabbona, neither was he so intelligent. At one time, earlier, he was regarded as a bloodthirsty enemy of the whites and during the Indian Creek massacre of 1832, he undoubtedly knew all about the plan and urged its enactment. But with the conclusion of the war, he was what might be called a good Indian.

At one time when those Indians had been started on their migration to their new reservation, 1,000 of them camped around the big spring. They were quiet and made no effort to disturb the settlers. So soon as they had been paid off they resumed their journey westward.

I have had occasion to mention the frequency of the taverns along the highways, great and small. Being the great artery connecting the two principal towns in Northern Illinois, the Chicago road was dotted along with taverns and it seems at this time as though the Paw Paw's had more than their share.

Over in East Paw Paw a traveler stopped at the Jacob Wirick tavern. When the woman made the beds next morning, she found there a sack or portmanteau of money. It was not disturbed and

when the guest left, of course he took his money with him. He had been shot as I have been told and a woman came and tended him. Later she left, and then the man. In fact my mother, conversant with the facts, has said so. Subsequent to this the guest was arrested for horse stealing. He sent for his wife and told her he had buried the money near a fence and marked the spot with a notched stick. She tried very hard to locate the money but failed. Of course the affair got noised about and many a search was instituted.

By an accident, almost incredible, Harris Breese noticed a notched stick near a fence one day, and he broke it off and started for the village. Meeting Robert Hampton, he told the latter of his find and asked him to join in digging. Incredulously they began, but soon they dug up the sack which contained in Spanish doubloons, the equivalent of \$900. This was divided equally and it became the foundation of Mr. Hampton's ample fortune.

Caroline, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Town, was the first child born at the grove, April 21, 1836.

The dates of early Wyoming settlements have been put down in other books so many times that it would seem uninteresting to repeat them here. But so long as the books are not accessible, I must set them down without allusion to subsequent careers.

Levi Kelsey, Joel Griggs, David A. Town, Tracy Reeve, the visitor, Oliver P. Johnson, D. A. Town's family (Mrs. Town was Aunt Roxy), Rev. Benoni Harris and wife, and eight children, six of whom were married, Edward Butterfield, John Ploss and John Wilcox, the last three of whom were sons-in-law; these all came in 1834.

Butterfield was another Black Hawk war veteran, who, attracted here by the beauty of the country, was instrumental in bringing out the colony.

Isaac or Asahel Balding, Russell Town and five children, Hosea, Harriet, David, Zerah and Elizabeth; a Mr. Alger, whose grave is said to have been the first made in the grove, all came in 1835.

Job Alcott came in 1836. It is the general impression that he married Madeline Ogee before settling there; when or where nobody can tell. I have written every county clerk in the north half of Illinois, but no marriage license was issued from any of the counties. Charles Morgan came in 1836; so did William Rogers, the first postmaster. He was the man who had charge of the removal of the Indians in 1837 to Council Bluffs, and it is more than likely that 1836 or 1837 is the date he bought his half of the



Ogee section. He could not have bought it before because he came here in the year 1836. Subsequently he became an officer in the Mexican war and still later sheriff of the county in which Sacramento, California, is situated.

Henry and Medad Comstock came in 1836; they were brothers and blacksmiths. Both were drowned in 1839 while hunting ducks in Iowa. Samuel McDowell, 1836; his marriage with Delilah Harris, July 4, 1836, was the first wedding in the grove; Levi Carter came in 1836 and his marriage with Mrs. Gillette was the third.

Jacob D. Rogers came in 1837 from Pennsylvania. James Goble, later came in 1837; William Jenkins and family, 1837; John Sims, 1837, opened a tavern west of David A. Town's.

In 1838 came Rev. Caleb Morris and family, including his daughter, Mrs. Nancy Robinson, a widow, and her seven children, six sons and one daughter. These located south of the grove. Mr. Mead, too, came this year, purchased a claim south of the road of Benjamin Harris, and built on it. Mr. Dunbar, who died soon after, settled at Four Mile Grove in 1838, just over in LaSalle county.

Deacon Orlando Boardman came in 1840, from Pennsylvania and settled on a claim bought from Eber St. John. It is said of Charles Morgan that he told Deacon Boardman, "whether I am an abolitionist or not, my best mares are."

Deacon Hallock also came in 1840, and he is authority for the statement that then eighteen families encircled Paw Paw Grove, thirteen of whom were in Wyoming township, besides one White and French Pete, who was Pierre (Peter) Leclerc or LeClair. I must be pardoned in my orthography of this word; it appears in every conceivable form.

Bailey Breese came the same season and bought a claim from William Rogers, which included a good portion of the land on which East Paw Paw is situated. This Mr. Breese was a man highly educated; public spirited, and commanded great influence in the community.

Peter May came in 1841, May 5th, and bought from George Town nearly all the land on which the town or village of Paw Paw now stands. About the year 1851 he disappeared mysteriously and beyond any question he was murdered. In 1879, when removing an old fence which surrounded his premises, the bones of a human being were found buried beneath it. Undoubtedly they were Peter's bones. The supposition was that in a drunken brawl he



was killed. He was a blacksmith and built a smithy in 1842 on the south side of the road.

O. W. Bryant came in 1842 and settled at Four Mile Grove, past which the old Princeton road ran. In 1843, Rev. Norman Warriner came here.

Amasa Harrington came in 1844, with his two sons, A. J. and H. H. In 1846 he bought the May property.

#### TRAGEDIES

With all the appearances and disappearances of horse thieves, in the early day, Wyoming was free from tragedies. They came later.

In 1863, a peculiar tragedy was enacted. The city marshal of Mendota, accompanied by Daniel Mizenbaugh, William Mizenbaugh and another man called up John Britton, during the night with the request for his assistance in overhauling a couple of horse thieves, named Horton and Raymond, who then were driving towards Paw Paw. Britton and his two sons, John and William, joined in the pursuit. Near the then Hosea Town place the thieves were overhauled and the marshal, Mizenbaugh and the older Britton faced the fleeing thieves and demanded a surrender. Horton's reply was a fusillade of shots at Britton, one ball passing through his hat. At the Four Corners, the robbers' route was lost. The Paw Paw road was selected and at the bridge near the creamery the team was overtaken; it had run astride a sapling. Horton had been hit and was dying. His companion escaped. Immediately Britton and his son, William, surrendered themselves to Squire Colvill at Paw Paw who discharged them.

The horses later, were claimed by a woman from Wisconsin, calling herself Hames. Mr. Britton, the senior, at the next term of court asked the grand jury to indict him for the act, but that body declined. While at the home of a friend, he was taken ill and died.

The Conant case was one of the most exciting criminal cases of the day, 1866. In the fall, a furious rough and tumble fight occurred between William A. Conant, his father, Elihu C. Conant, and William Barber, his wife, and Christopher Srygley and Roderick Kavanaugh. As a matter of fact about all the older Conant did was to look on and do a little bossing while poor William, his son, single-handed, fought the field, and when nearly overpowered and exhausted, he shot Barber, who died nine days later. It was a fearful fight and regarding the trial from this distance it was noth-

ing short of disgraceful to find him guilty and sentence him to eight years' imprisonment and the father to six years. True, pardons came, one to William in two years and nine months and one to the father in four years and four months. But pray, what compensation is a pardon after a man has been ruined?

The story is a long one; condensed it was thus: E. C. Conant bought a farm the previous spring and sold the south half to William, and rented him the other on which were located the buildings. Later, notwithstanding the transactions, the old man, against the protestations of the son, rented the premises to a widow named Kavanaugh. At the son's legitimate objections, the old man flew into a rage. Like a decent sort of a son, he confined his protestations to Mrs. Kavanaugh. Barber asked to rent the eighty on which the buildings were located. Conant Sr., promised to lease it to him if he did not dispose of it. Meanwhile Barber and his wife went to board with Mrs. Kavanaugh.

Old man Conant went to O. W. Bryant, a justice, to make the lease to Barber agreeably with his promise, but Barber did not appear and so the deal with the son was consummated.

Without right Barber began fall plowing; he was looking for trouble. William ordered him off, and he in turn put two teams to work and Barber ordered them off. On Nov. 13th, the deeds and papers between the Conants were executed formally at Paw Paw. On the 14th old man Conant served on the widow a notice to vacate. Barber and wife were absent. On the 19th Mrs. Barber was present, and when Conant, Jr., appeared to serve the notice on Barber, she hurled a volley of billingsgate at the young man.

While awaiting the appearance of his father the son began picking up odds and ends and piling them up. Mrs. Barber then came at him, ordered him off, tried to push him off and then tried to remove the pitchfork from his hands. Failing, she started to the woods for her husband.

Knowing him to be reckless, Conant crossed to his house, got a revolver and resolved to stand his ground. To see that it was ready, he fired one chamber. The two hired men, Gordon Sanford and Frank Adams, were called from their teams to hear the conversation as witnesses.

Presently Mrs. Barber and Srygley came without Barber and the hired men were sent back to work. Then old Conant arrived, but the son, desiring to remove him from a scene of possible excitement, sent him to haul away the stuff he had piled up.

Presently Barber and Roderick Kavanaugh, the widow's son, appeared, running their horses. Barber attempted to ride over William. William grabbed the bridle and prevented it, at the same time, displaying his pistol.

Conant, Sr., Mrs. Barber and Srygley all appeared, the woman with a club with which she struck the elder Conant a blow, at the same time saying she would kill him.

When the old man demanded that she be taken away, as he did not want to fight a woman, Srygley drew her away and Barber sent her into the house. Old Conant, talking excitedly, approached. Barber turned on him, pressed him against a wagon wheel and was about to strike when the son drew and threatened to shoot. Barber paused. In the words following, Mrs. Barber stole up behind and struck William's pistol hand, at the same instant Barber sprang on his back. Kavanaugh joined him and the next instant Srygley jumped onto William's head and shoulders. A thousand things happened in an instant. In the midst of it, with three men murderously pounding him, William's pistol went off and Barber was shot. Besides imprisonment, the widow got a judgment for \$5,000. A change of venue was taken to Whiteside county.

On March 12, 1879, William E. Rosette, over at East Paw Paw, insanely jealous, made a murderous assault on his wife with a potato fork. When the poor woman fell, the husband fled and drowned himself.

#### CIVIL WAR

Wyoming township was generous with its sons during the Civil war. Company K, Seventy-fifth Illinois Volunteers, was recruited almost exclusively from Wyoming, largely through the instrumentality of Col. George Ryon and James H. Thompson. In the list of Lee county soldiers, Company K will be found in full.

#### STORMS AND FLOODS

On Aug. 19, 1851, rain began to fall and continued without cessation for three days and nights. The frenzied clouds ablaze with lightning led the superstitious to fear that the day of judgment had come. Nobody left his house. Provisions ran out. John Britton's invitation to "help yourself to my potato patch," was accepted later. Crops were destroyed. Stocks were a total loss. Creeks were swollen inordinately and became roaring torrents. Fields were submerged for miles and great suffering followed.



## CYCLONE OF 1890

(From *Lee County Times*, Paw Paw, Friday, June 27, 1890, kindness of Ed. F. Guffin, editor.)

This storm cut a swath through Lee county, Friday, June 20th.

"The first account of this frightful visitation is from a point twelve to fifteen miles, a little south of west from the village of Sublette, at what is known as the Blackburn Herd, where a number of cattle were killed; from there it took an easterly direction, a little north in a zig-zag course, from twenty to forty rods wide, mowing everything before it.

"Among the buildings destroyed are those of William Shaw, Daniel Haley, William Reeves, William R. Long and John R. Hatch, leading farmers in that section west of the Illinois Central track. No fatalities reported from that section.

"The tempest crossed the Illinois Central at Sublette, tearing down and destroying eight or ten buildings on the outskirts of that village. One old lady, Mrs. Bittner, was killed and fifteen to twenty people were more or less injured.

"From here the course pursued was a little north of east. Some buildings four miles south of West Brooklyn were crushed into kindling wood. Frank Schmitz lost everything in the way of buildings; his family took refuge in the cellar; but three of the children were blown out of the cellar and tossed about in the whirl; they were considerably injured, but will recover. The buildings on Valentine Bieser's place near Schmitz were also totally destroyed. The family went into the cellar and escaped unharmed.

"In Brooklyn township about four miles south of Compton, John Faulk and Daniel Miller lost each a barn. Leonard Blass' house and barn were both destroyed; Fred Bachman's orchard was completely demolished, but his house escaped with a few shingles torn off. The course of the storm from Faulk's to Bachman's was northeast, but it then went due east nearly two miles following the road. John Palitsche's farm was the first reached; here the force seemed concentrated, and utter destruction followed; the large house and barn are gone, with only here and there a splinter to tell the tale. Mr. Palitsche saw the approaching wrath and with his family went into the cellar. He says the house raised up, moved north and was lost to sight; he did not see it go to pieces; for the moment, there was so much debris flying that he did not dare move from the wall. None of the fam-



ily were injured. East of the Palitsche house on the same road stood a schoolhouse; all that remains of its wreck are a half dozen flooring boards; school had been dismissed a few minutes and the building was empty; on the same road, east of the schoolhouse, stood the buildings of George Palitsche; they were as completely destroyed and scattered as were his brother John's buildings; but here the inmates of the house did not escape. Miss Rice, the teacher of the school, with several pupils, were near this house when the storm overtook them and entered for shelter; in a moment they were scattered in every direction, and everyone more or less injured, some seriously—one, a child of Mr. Palitsche, died that night, and Mrs. Palitsche is thought to be fatally injured; one of Peter Eich's children had his jaw broken, and was otherwise badly bruised and cut; it is feared that he will die. Miss Rice was not seriously injured, and went to work at once to find and assist the wounded children. A rider went swiftly to Compton for aid and it was not long till a number of citizens were present, caring for the hurt. They were all taken to the house of Philip Schlessinger, and a count showed fourteen badly wounded. Doctor Chandler was with the Compton people, and put in the night with the injured. Mr. Palitsche was in Compton during the storm and was notified by the messenger that went there for help. East of Palitsche's, on the south side of the road, Louis Knauer's house, occupied by Henry Arndt, was destroyed; no serious injury to any of the family—further east Henry Englehart's barn and orchard were demolished; next G. W. Keen, east of Englehart's was visited; his orchard was torn up, but his buildings escaped with but little damage.

“The cyclone now moved in a northeasterly direction, and reached the premises of James Blee. Mr. Blee and Henry Potter saw the funnel coming; Blee started for the house, and Potter dropped to the ground by the side of a large double corn crib. Blee with his family took refuge in the cellar; the large house was removed and smashed into kindling. Mrs. Blee received injuries which are quite serious; his mother who was visiting him, was unhurt. Potter escaped injury; the corn crib was not blown away; his team, hitched to a wagon, was in the driveway of the crib, but became frightened, got out and started to run away; they became entangled in a wire fence which held them, and Potter found the rig in this condition after the storm. The next home invaded was that of Newton Woods, about two and one-quarter miles northeast. Here the house was torn to pieces and swept

away, with the exception of one room, a sitting room, occupied by the family; the covering of the room was removed, and nothing but the sides remained; the family escaped without injury. About thirty rods north of Woods stood what was known as the Field's schoolhouse; this seems to have stood directly in the path of the howling demon of destruction and here occurred the most distressing and appalling calamity, and one that for dire havoc and destruction of life is unparalleled in the history of death-dealing storms.

"Miss Maggie McBride, of this place, was teaching here; school had been dismissed—it was about 4:30 P. M. As it was raining but few of the pupils had left the house. Some parents had sent for their children, and one or two had started out in the storm; seven remained with the teacher, awaiting an abatement of the rain; they must have heard the hissing and howling of the tempest as it approached. Undoubtedly they saw the whirling, snorting, snaking demon as it bounded over the fields towards them, and huddled about their devoted teacher who attempted to quiet their fears—but one moment of this awful suspense, and eight souls were hurled into eternity. Anxious, agonizing parents, who lived near the line of the storm and in sight of the schoolhouse, whose hearts yearned for the safety of their little ones, hurried towards the scene the moment the tornado had passed; but alas! the schoolhouse was not to be seen, and their dear ones answered not to their distracted cries.

"The grim destroyer did not pause a moment to witness the devastation wrought, but hurried on across the fields; the road running south from Paw Paw was crossed just south of Frank McBride's, whose barn, east of his house, was shattered; the east and west road to South Paw Paw was crossed between Jack Reams' and the bridge over the railroad. The Reams house seems to have been on the extreme western edge of the storm's track; an addition on the east side of the house was wrecked, and the main building moved six to eight feet south; further east stood the George Kelly house, occupied by B. T. Searey's family; this was smashed, the family escaping injury save Mr. Searey's mother, who had a fractured limb and two broken ribs.

"The gyrating terror next entered the grove; its path here was from twenty to forty rods wide, in which trees were twisted off, pulled up and strewn about. Seventy to eighty rods from the J. R. & N. railroad, and about forty rods in the grove, stood the house of Peter Reams; it was no barrier to the progress of the

storm, and was left a shapeless wreck. The storm passed on through the grove about one mile and a half, when it apparently became exhausted near James Harper's place, after tearing down his orchard. Mr. Reams and his wife were in their house; she in the second story. As he observed the storm's approach, he called to his wife to come down stairs at once, as a terrible storm was upon them; she hastened to get down, but cannot remember that she had taken more than a step or two down when she found herself on the lower floor, amidst the ruins of the house. News of the frightful disaster reached Paw Paw in a few minutes, and numbers of citizens hastened to the scene. Mrs. Peter Reams was found uninjured, groping in a dazed manner about the pile of wreckage; it was thought that her husband was buried in the debris. This was explored enough to ascertain that he was not there. A search was then made in the grove, where he was found about ten rods northeast of the house lying face down, under the boughs of a fallen tree, dead. It is thought that he was not killed by the branches that were over him as they were too small. A cat was found under his head.

"The Searcy's were looked after by others, and the greater number went directly to the site of the schoolhouse. The scene here was horrible beyond description and the excitement intense; parents whose children were in the fatal schoolhouse were frantic with grief. The little brook near the schoolhouse was swollen by the heavy rain into a creek, and the water was two to four feet in depth. Men plunged into the stream and searched for the victims. One by one, their mutilated forms were discovered, until all were found. The spectacle was shocking in the extreme. The bodies were nearly nude. What clothing remained on them was torn into shreds. A number of them were found in the water. They were cut and bruised and broken in almost every conceivable manner. The names of the dead are as follows: Miss Maggie McBride, teacher, Edna Hunt, Jennie Radley, Minnie Berry, Ada Rudolph, Lena Prentice, Robbie Oderkirk, Carry White, Jr., children of William Hunt, Arvin Radley, Isaac J. Berry, Jacob Rudolph, Asahel Prentice, Seaman Oderkirk and Carry J. White. The dead were removed to their homes as fast as found and prepared for burial. Five were buried Saturday, and four, including Peter Reams, Sunday. The schoolhouse stood two miles south of this place and the Reams and Searcy places about one mile southeast. The excitement in this neighborhood was intense; all business was suspended Saturday, and nothing was talked of but



the storm. Owing to the exaggerated reports in the Saturday morning Chicago papers, people came from miles around to view the scene. All day Saturday, Sunday and Monday the track of the cyclone was thronged with visitors from the surrounding country. An excursion train came from Rochelle, Sunday.

“It is impossible to give all the details. Eye witnesses differ in their evidence. No two agree in their accounts, and yet all may be truthful. A liberal allowance must be made for the excitement of the moment, and then it must be remembered that a cyclone cloud with its swift forward movement and rapid rotary motion, charged with trees, boards, timbers, and all manner of debris, churning, grinding and revolving in one gigantic swirl, does not present the same spectacle two consecutive moments. Again, eye witnesses from the north and south and in front, or at different places along the line, cannot dispute such others’ evidence, for it is impossible for any two of them to see any portion of the flying mixture in the same position.

“There are a thousand and one stories in circulation, most of them more or less exaggerated, but all, no doubt, containing more or less truth. The report that the schoolhouse was seen intact three hundred, two hundred or one hundred feet in the air, rolling and tumbling about, is probably a mistake. There is no doubt that as a rule, buildings in the center of such a storm are raised from the foundation and moved off. This view is supported by the fact that in almost every instance where people have taken refuge in cellars, they have escaped death and injury. It is also supported by the declaration of persons who were in cellars, to avoid the storm. Their evidence is, that the building raised up and moved off, though none of them saw any building break in pieces. While this no doubt is true, it seems impossible that any building could retain its form ten seconds in a storm of such power as this one was. The appearance about the schoolhouse grounds, the location of different portions of the wreck, and the positions of the victims, all indicate that the house was crushed near the ground, not far from the foundation.

“The report that the persons in George Palitsche’s house were blown 140 rods into a pond, is untrue. Most of the victims were found in the vicinity of the pond, but the distance from the location of the house does not exceed ten rods. The trail of the storm presents many curious features. Trees were pulled up by the roots; some are twisted in two, leaving the stumps in the ground. Others have the bark pulled off. Osage hedges are torn



up. Chickens and other fowl are found entirely denuded of their feathers. Dead cats, rats, dogs, hogs, horses and cattle, in various places. Articles of clothing, sheets and other things seen hanging in trees; boards, sticks, splinters and timber, sticking into the ground, hurled from the passing cyclone. Where buildings were destroyed everything was lost. Furniture was broken up; hardly a whole piece of furniture could be found anywhere.

"The trail varies from ten to forty rods in width—probably averages twenty rods. Preceding the tornado was an electric storm, with considerable rainfall. Immediately following was a tremendous downpour. On either side of the track a heavy rain with thunder and lightning, prevailed. The rain and mist were so thick that it was impossible to detect the savage character of the storm, one mile away. Some persons that distance off, and some a greater distance, heard what appeared like a muffled roar.

"William McMahan, whose house stands within sixty rods of the northwest line of destruction watched its approach and passage. It was of the funnel shape, whirling and bounding along with a hissing or buzzing sound, swooping the earth and bounding from it alternately. He saw no manifestations of electricity in the rolling, boiling, steaming cloud. The portion nearest the earth was very dark; the upper portion lighter. He could see sticks and other articles on the outer side, flying about and dropping to the ground.

"Mr. James Blee, whose house was destroyed, saw the storm at some distance, but could not make out its character. He was satisfied that it was dangerous, and sent his family to the cellar. He remained in the cellar door which faced the coming demon, and anxiously watched its approach. So full of rain and fog was the atmosphere, not till within ten rods of him could he distinguish its outlines and true character. At that distance it enveloped some trees and apparently broke open, giving him a view of the inside. While the outside had the appearance of steam and smoke escaping from the engine, the opening showed great electric disturbance, which was indicated by a constant emission of sparks and flashes. Henry Potter, who remained outside near the corn crib, corroborates Mr. Blee's statement. There was a strong sulphurous odor during and some time after the cyclone. It is a curious feature, that nowhere along the track is the grass or grain removed, nor do they at any place have the appearance of having been burned or scorched. Another strange feature is the fact that on neither side of the storm was there perceptible any

greater agitation of the atmosphere than in ordinary thunder storms.

“It will be many a long year before the scenes of death and destruction in the wake of this terrifying phenomenon will be effaced from the memory of those who suffered from its frightful devastation, or those who assisted in the work of recovering the dead. But two sentiments seem to prevail in the community: mourning for the dead, and sympathy for the living. James Blee probably took a closer view of the cyclone than any other person on the line. He thinks there was a space four to four and one-half feet in diameter in the center of the funnel, a vacuum, around which the cloud revolved. In and across this pipe as it were, occurred the electric display. After the cloud had passed, he followed its path to ascertain if what appeared to be a fact was really true. He could trace in the center of the damage the distinct mark of the suction pipe, where a hedge was crossed, and in many places on the ground. In some places the ground was torn up and in others the grass and grain were nipped off close to the center where the most energy was displayed, showed a width as above stated. He noticed, or thought he did, while the cloud was approaching, that everything in this center was going up, while around it everything was revolving. From this apparent condition, he concluded that the vacuum as above described acted as a suction pipe, and was the point of greatest energy and destruction. His examination of the ground afterward seemed to verify this theory.”

#### TORNADO OF 1898

(From *Lee County Times*, of Paw Paw, May 20th)

About 6 o'clock Wednesday evening, when a heavy shower had passed to the northward, and the western horizon was free from low clouds, a tornado was seen approaching from the west. The view was unobstructed, and the action of the tornado could be seen in all its peculiar gyrations.

The onlookers saw a heavy, nimbus cloud hovering along the course, torn by turmoil and traveling like a swift bird of prey. When first sighted by our excited citizens, the tornado was a little south of west, and for several minutes seemed to be making but slow progress, though it was afterwards learned that its movements were very swift. Being sighted at such a distance, and com-

ing almost directly eastward, made the appearance of slowness deceptive. The tornado seemed to be transported by the heavy cloud mentioned. The action of the twisting tornado was very peculiar. At one time nothing would be seen but the terrific disturbance in the cloud, and immediately the tornado would drop with screwlike motion and sweep the earth for various distances, stirring up the earth in clouds of dust. The lowering and raising of the tornado looked like the tentacle of an octopus, reaching out for something to destroy. It would dart from the clouds towards the earth with lightning rapidity, sometimes reaching only part way down and at others making the whole distance. At the time these observations were made, not much damage was being done, as the tornado was not touching where buildings were located. Near West Brooklyn the direction was changed to a northeasterly course, and then it became apparent that the forward motion was very swift, and it went on with greater speed than an express train. When it had passed to a vicinity about northwest of town, the best observation was noted. Here the heavy, dark, menacing cloud spiraled to the earth and assumed the form of a cylindrical tube and showed plainly by the appearance of dust and disturbance in its wake that much damage was resulting. It was at its greatest strength at this view. The appearance of the tornado at this place could best be compared to an elephant's proboscis, reaching about the ground for delicacies. The lower end switched about the ground like the cracker of a cattle whip.

At times the commotion was tremendous, the dark mass taking on a look like a fiercely boiling cauldron, scattering itself as if torn by an explosion, and then gathering to pass on for more destruction. When at a point almost directly north of town, the grand finale seemed to have taken place. It was a sight to inspire awe in any beholder. The same form had been maintained to the point mentioned, when, of a sudden, the tornado severed its connection with the overhanging cloud and in a fierce swoop, descended to the earth like a flash, pounding the ground it seemed, in one last supreme effort. The force developed in this striking action must have been equal to thousands of tons of pressure.

It has been asked, "Who can paint a rainbow?" It might be asked with equal futility, "Who can describe the tornado?" Description fails signally in portraying the awfulness of such a phenomenon. It is quite probable that a better view of a tornado was never witnessed than that seen by the people in this section of Lee county. The conditions for observation were perfect, and the



watchers saw its peculiar actions for about thirty minutes. It is calculated that the dissolution took place at a point in Willow Creek, for it was not seen afterwards by Lee county people, though Byron and Stillman Valley were visited and deaths occurred at both places, and points in Wisconsin were damaged. The scientific observances have always found that tornadoes in the Mississippi valley move in a northeasterly trend, and in case the one which passed here did the damage at Byron and Stillman Valley, its course would have been changed directly northwest. Such a trend has not been known before and it is improbable in this instance. The presumption is, that in this great cyclonic storm, local tornadoes originated in different portions of its diameter.

It is generally understood that a death-dealing storm of the nature described, is a cyclone. But this is a mistake. A cyclone is a great storm of from one hundred to five hundred miles diameter, the accompanying winds circulate in one direction in the northern part of the storm and in a reverse direction in the southern part, which causes a disturbance throughout the cyclone and accounts for the shifting of the wind before and after the storm has passed. During the presence of such a cyclone storm, tornadoes are apt to develop. The condition of the weather had not been sultry or of a nature which would lead one to expect the presence of a tornado. A heavy breeze was blowing all day from the south, but the atmosphere was not oppressive.

#### IN THE WAKE

The evidence of the tornado's power was traced from a point west of Sublette to the home of the widow Peterson, in Willow Creek, and the direction was generally northeast, though at times, it bore almost directly east. There is some difference in opinions, as to the point where the storm crossed the C. B. and Q. tracks, but it was between Amboy and Shaws. From there it came eastward for several miles until near West Brooklyn, where it veered to the northeast.

The damage reported up to this time will be described, commencing at Sublette, a house belonging to a farmer named Hall, was destroyed. Mrs. Hall is said to be seriously injured. After leaving that vicinity nothing of importance occurred until the tornado struck the Atkinson homestead, one mile west of the Old Berg. Mr. Lauer lives there. The barn and house are said to have been totally demolished, and Mr. Lauer was considerably



injured though not fatally. The next damage occurred at Frank Beemer's, about a mile north of Wesley Miller's place. His barn was overturned; his windmill and tower were blown down. Beemer's barn contained a number of horses and cattle, but none were killed. George and Mrs. Farre, were the next persons to experience the terror of being in the path of a destructive tornado. They were eating supper and had not observed the approach of the storm until the roar warned them. It was so close that they had not time to get into the cellar. This they attempted to do, but a suction of wind prevented them from opening the cellar door quickly, and in a flash the storm had passed. The tornado had seemed to have witnessed their efforts to escape to a place of safety, and wishing to give them a fair chance, contented itself with whisking off the kitchen, which was distributed over a large territory. The chicken house, full of poultry and a number of setting hens lost itself in the confusion and has not since been located. George also lost a number of rods of wire fence. His loss amounts to a considerable sum. His dog, which was chained outside, came back a short time afterwards looking like a war veteran. From his appearance George judged he had seen lively times. The worst devastation occurred on the old Jacob Miller farm. Right in this vicinity are four houses, all within a radius of a quarter of a mile; the Dwight Davenport, John Anderson, Arthur Wells and Holden Risetters houses, the three latter belonging to Thomas Wells, Remington Warriner and Jacob Miller.

The tornado twisted about among this quartet without doing much damage except to the Jacob Miller house, which it razed in the twinkling of an eye. Here occurred the only death in the path of the storm. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Chichester were living there and did not notice the storm until it was right at hand. Mrs. Chichester took her two-year old child and they ran to the outside cellar door. Before they could reach it the blow descended and everything was chaos. The air was full of debris and for a moment Egyptian darkness prevailed. It all happened in a second. Mr. Chichester was buffeted and hurled about and finally dumped into the cellar. He was badly dazed for a time and did not fully understand the extent of the calamity when he was found by the neighbors. Mrs. Chichester and the child were discovered in the field, about twenty rods south of where the house stood. Many people from town started towards the path of the storm early and J. W. Mayor and son and W. A. Pratt and others were there in a short

time. Mrs. Chichester was dead, but the child was alive. They were removed to Mr. Harvey Johnson's house by the sympathetic friends. Mrs. Chichester was not badly bruised, but her jaw had been fractured.

Her sad death illustrates the uncertainty of life. She had visited her mother, Mrs. Frank Hoag, at East Paw Paw that day and had been at home but fifteen or twenty minutes. She had been urged to stop with Mrs. William Barringer on her way home, for a short time, as the sky bore a very threatening aspect when she passed Mrs. Barringer's. It seemed that her fate had been marked out. Her death has caused great sorrow and Mr. Chichester has the universal sympathy of our people in his unfortunate bereavement. Mr. Chichester's injuries are not serious, the principal one being a gash on the back part of his head, which causes him much pain. The child, though blown about amongst the flying timbers and objects, had a miraculous escape from death and appears but little harmed. Aside from the loss of his wife, Mr. Chichester lost all of his personal property, which was scattered to the four winds. The scene of the devastation has been visited by hundreds of people, curious as to the freaks of the tornado, but with delicate feelings of commiseration for the unlucky victims. The scene is highly illustrative of the force of the rotating storm. The debris is strewn about for many rods in all directions, twisted and broken. Trees of venerable age and large proportions are now dismantled monarchs, and reduced to kindling wood. Bed clothing and apparel are seen high in the branches of the trees left standing. It can only be described as a scene of desolation. Most of the neighbors retreated to their cellars on the approach of the storm, but Mr. Johnson's hired man saw the destruction from the road, where he was standing, undecided which way to flee. The wheel on Mr. Anderson's windmill was torn off, and Charley Davenport's sidewalk was lifted out of its place and deposited in another part of the yard. No other damage was done in that vicinity. Mrs. Peterson's barn, about one and one-half miles north of Chichester's, was blown to pieces, but no stock was killed. A short distance north of here was where the tornado snuffed itself out.

Following the path of the storm it would be found that it traveled between thirty and thirty-five miles in this county. This storm is reported to have killed two women at Ohio, a town a few miles southwest of Sublette.

That the loss of life was not greater, is certainly wonderful. It must be remembered however, that the tornado did not keep

close to the ground all the time, in fact but a small part of the distance. The course and action were observed by people all along the route, who rather enjoyed watching the unusual sight, but took good care to be near places of safety, into which they might dodge in case the course diverged in their direction, but being fearful for those who might be in its zig zag path. It was a sublime spectacle, but not one calculated for the amusement of a human being who would comprehend the probability of the frightful results.

Mrs. Chichester's funeral was held this afternoon in the church at East Paw Paw, at 2 o'clock, Reverend Dolliver preaching. The burial service was at South Side cemetery.

It has been learned that the barn on the Atkinson farm was not destroyed, though the roof was taken off.

\* \* \*

In 1838 the township and range lines were surveyed, but the section lines were not run until the winter of 1842-43. So soon as the surveys were completed, preemptions were made promptly under the original act of 1841.

Prior to this time, title was held only by right of occupancy and an improvement made was held to be occupancy until the maker of it might return.

Many times a claimant had to go long distances to get work to subsist on, until he could go alone at his farming. In other instances the claimant desired to return to get married. In all such instances the claim was presumed to be respected. Of course once in a while a claim was jumped. David A. Towne's second claim north of the grove was jumped, but with his well known forcefulness, it needs no great imagination to see the trespasser removed *vic et armis*, as he was. This led to the various mutual protection societies, and be it said, they protected, invariably.

An instance is given by Charles Pierce of claim jumping in Wyoming. A settler gave employment to a lad until he could earn enough to start for himself. This lad jumped one of his employer's two forties. The committee came to the premises. The lad defied them in a set speech from the top of a barrel. The captain kicked the barrel from under him; others produced a rope. The youngster then begged for mercy and left the country. Ducking was employed at times. Floggings too, were used. They all were successful.

\* \* \*



The burial ground of the Indians in this vicinity was near the southeast corner of Paw Paw Grove; something less than an acre. The Indian method of burial there is interesting. Some twenty of the dead were thus buried: Each body was placed between two halves of a hollow log, which were supported above the ground upon posts. Other bodies were buried in the ground.

\* \* \*

J. C. Heath was the first physician to come to Paw Paw, but George S. Hunt was the first resident physician. He came in the spring of 1844, and while residing at South Paw Paw, his practice extended to all the settlements. Henry Hudson and James Goble Boardman succeeded him there.

A. S. McIntyre, a name almost forgotten, was another very early physician.

George Ryon, undoubtedly was the leading physician of Wyoming. He located in Paw Paw in 1850. He was a learned physician. There was one thing he could do thoroughly and that was practice medicine. He knew how to cure; he knew how to enter a sick room and his commanding presence almost drove away an illness. He was over six feet tall, but like many another, he thought he could do something else than his chosen profession, better.

Through a deadlock in a republican convention, his brother-in-law, William E. Ives of Amboy, got him the republican nomination to fill a vacancy in the Legislature. He was elected. He grew intimate with Governor Yates and brought home with him the promise of a commission as colonel to raise the Seventy-fifth Regiment. He went to the war, and at the Perryville fight he was charged with sending his troops into the field without ammunition. A court martial was ordered and he was acquitted. He then resigned. In 1858 he was admitted to the bar and rather expected to practice law. After the war, he conceived the idea that he might grow very rich at coal mining. In this venture he lost heavily. He tried banking in Amboy, and after making some atrocious loans, quit. In all he had lost the competency he had amassed and with everything gone, he turned again to medicine, in Amboy. Practice came instantly and he was astonishingly successful. When he died he left a fine estate for that period.

W. T. Sherwood, Thomas Fish and M. H. Everett followed. J. Oliver Stanton, too. Among the later physicians were James H.



Braffet, Thomas Steller and Thomas D. Palmer. The last named today has a commanding position in Chicago as a physician. Doctor Avery is now in Paw Paw, and has assumed a strong position there. For a long while he acted as assistant to Dr. A. W. Chandler of Compton.

#### THE ELEPHANT

In 1880, the skeleton of a monster was discovered by L. W. Bidwell, in the employ of George Lindsay, excavating in a slough for an ice pond. Its length was twenty-two and one-half feet and its height about fifteen or sixteen feet. Its eye socket was about the size of a tea cup. The head was about three feet in length; the lower jaw twenty-six inches. In this, two teeth remained; one twenty-one inches in circumference, the other two inches smaller. The upper joint of the hind leg measured four feet four inches long and twenty-one inches in circumference at the knee; from there to the ankle joint the measurement was three feet, two inches. The foot was about twelve inches high. The backbone and ribs were well preserved, some of the ribs measuring six inches in circumference.

#### EAST PAW PAW

East Paw Paw, though partially in DeKalb county, was connected by such inseparable ties that it cannot justly be divided here. Some of the items already related, were indigenous to DeKalb county soil; but interlocked with Lee county, they always have been associated with the latter and always will be.

William Rogers reached there about 1836, the first man. He was a great gambler. After buying part of the Ogee section, he sold it piece meal. Subsequently he went to Dixon; run the Western tavern; then he went to the Mexican war; then to California. He probably was the widest known man who ever lived in Lee county. In 1877, when he came back, John Wentworth of Chicago, and others banqueted him.

Charles Morgan settled immediately west in 1836. He lived here until about 1850.

Of course we must not forget Job Alcott, who came in 1836. He joined Morgan on the east.

Along the county line, north of the Chicago road from Rogers, Bailey Breese from Morristown, New Jersey, settled in the fall of

1840. He bought from Rogers a quarter section. Part of the village was platted on his land. His house was the second built on the town site.

At one time when Breese had \$400 in cash he was offered forty acres of land near the Bulls Head tavern near Chicago; but Rogers persuaded him to buy more land and he bought from Rogers. He was a cousin of Judge Sidney Breese. He died in 1859.

Jacob Wirick came along in 1842 or 1843 and bought out William Rogers. A tavern was on the place and he run it awhile. He later moved to the southeast part of the village.

In Ohio he was converted to Mormonism, removed to Nauvoo; thence to Missouri; lost his property and later by leaving the fortunes of that sect, he regained a fortune.

Wiram Gates came in 1845, bought out Mead and settled down. He had been a circus proprietor. He was believed to be a copartner of counterfeiters and horse thieves, and while never caught with the goods, the goods were found suspiciously near, more than once, and thieves were caught at his place.

At one time he owned 600 acres of land. He built a fine establishment for the time. His house cost about three thousand dollars. One day it burned down and he never recovered any insurance.

He entered mercantile life in East Paw Paw. Once he brought \$12,000 worth of goods to the place, to be disposed of fraudulently, as has been said. Before the goods reached there, the settlers sent a party to the scene and required him and a son, who had means, to indorse for the son who originally had bought them. Unable to meet the notes at maturity, the goods were seized and Bogus Gates' career was at an end.

The first store was opened by Charles Howard in 1847. This stock subsequently was moved to East Corners (East Paw Paw), and sold to Sherborn Gates. In 1849, S. B. Warren bought the store and James Little entered as a partner.

The postoffice was established in 1850 and Andrew Breese was made postmaster.

Eleazer Darby LeMoyne settled there before 1845.

Old Spartan Lodge, No. 272, Independent Order of Odd Fellows, is the parent of five other lodges, Shabbona, of Earlville; Anchor, of Paw Paw; Fidelia, of Steward; Fertile, of Shabbona; and Triumph, of Melugin's Grove. It was organized March 31, 1859.

## SOUTH PAW PAW

South Paw Paw, on the DeKalb county line in section 24, is more a small collection of houses than a village, a Methodist Episcopal church, a cemetery and a few private houses.

John Ploss, who settled there in the spring of 1835, was the first settler. Eber St. John bought his claim when he left to return to Michigan, and when Deacon Orlando Boardman reached there in 1840, he bought the claim.

Deacon Israel Hallock came there in 1840.

Ralph Atherton, from Massachusetts, came in 1844, a shoemaker.

Dr. George S. Hunt, was the first regular physician. He located there in the spring of 1844.

Deacon Daniel Pine, who lived to be almost a hundred, came there in 1845.

David R. Town, son of Russell Town, came to Wyoming at the age of ten, in 1835. He went in 1848 to California, across the plains, in the Government service.

Timothy Goble, from the Wyoming valley in Pennsylvania, came to this Wyoming in 1843.

In the year 1838 Rev. Caleb Morris, Nancy, Caleb and Isacher Robinson, Betsey and Lydia Town, organized a Methodist class here. Caleb Robinson was made leader and steward and acted as such until 1858.

In 1843 the South Paw Paw Union Sabbath School was organized in the schoolhouse, with C. M. Dickinson as superintendent.

## THE RAILROAD

Like Amboy and Brooklyn, Wyoming bonded herself to help build the Rock River railroad, from Rock Falls eastward.

Thirty-four legal voters and tax payers petitioned to have called a special election to vote on the proposition to issue \$50,000 in bonds for the purpose. John Harding, town clerk, issued the call, and on Sept. 22, 1869, the election was held, 142 votes were cast in favor of the bonds and 62 against. The eastern terminal was to be Calumet and on that understanding many voted affirmatively who would have opposed the issue, otherwise. It terminated at Shabbona.

On June 19, 1872, Isaac Edwards, the contractor, finished the line to Paw Paw and Mr. Edwards and his men were banqueted.

At once, after finishing, the line was leased to the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy.

Injunctions were issued and the matter was litigated by James K. Edsall, for the town. On his election, as attorney-general, Judge John V. Eustace pushed the suit, but in the end the bonds had to be paid and now that the road is done, who shall say, he would do without the road?

Another branch of the Burlington, runs from Paw Paw southeasterly.

#### PAW PAW OF TODAY

A little older, but the Paw Paw of the early day just the same. In point of years many may be classed advanced, but in all the delightful ways of life they are young. A constant sunlight is reflected from Paw Paw.

Here are the LaPortes of 1838, just over the line for so many years. The only difference between those who lived over in Paw Paw township and those living in Paw Paw village, Wyoming township is one generation. Alonzo LaPorte, the father who died at eighty-one some time ago, was not more than eighteen in spirit. Frank A. LaPorte, James H. LaPorte, Mrs. Lillian Nisbet and Mrs. Lucie Herrick, children of Alonzo, all live here yet and endowed as they are with plenty, it is improbable that they ever will change their residences.

For many years James H. LaPorte was engaged in the general merchandising business and aside from large ownerships elsewhere, he made money rapidly. A few years ago, desiring to get out into the open air more and enjoy the sights afforded out in the world, he closed out his business and now Frank LaPorte Edwards, grandson of Alonzo LaPorte is installed in business in the same store.

But James could not stand idleness. He opened a real estate office and he enjoys a very successful business in that line. Loans upon real estate too are negotiated by him. A large number of valuable farms have been sold by him in Lee and DeKalb counties.

Frank LaPorte oversees his farming interests in DeKalb county and Iowa and that of itself keeps him busy.

From James LaPorte I found my information about the values of lands at present in Wyoming. The average price per acre is \$175 and the average rental is \$7 per acre. But most of the farms in this township are rented on shares.





BIRD'S-EYE VIEW OF PAW PAW



MAIN STREET, PAW PAW



Charles W. McMillan is a very active and successful real estate man. Within the past year he has sold a large number of farms in this township and Willow Creek. Mr. McMillan does a large insurance business as well. S. A. Wright and Ed. P. Fleming too, are very successful real estate men. Paw Paw is a center for big deals and these firms prosper.

Among the professional gentlemen of Wyoming, is Mr. C. F. Preston, the attorney who long has been a resident of the village of Paw Paw. By common consent he is conceded to have the largest and best paying legal business in Lee county. The village is so situated that three counties are tributary to Preston, and from those three counties, Mr. Preston draws. His probate practice is one of the largest in the down state counties. This may seem incredible, but so it is. As a professional man Mr. Preston stands very high. Many attempts have been made to lure him into running for office, but all to no purpose. Beyond a doubt were he to permit the use of his name to his party, the democratic, he might win; but sensibly enough he refuses steadily.

The physicians and surgeons of Paw Paw are W. M. Avery, the associate of Doctor Chandler at the Compton hospital, T. H. Stetler and J. R. Crowell. J. B. Daugherty is a D. D. S. and E. L. Von Ohlen, has established himself in a fine business in Paw Paw, as a veterinary surgeon. S. M. Bennett also is a veterinary surgeon. These medical gentlemen enjoy practice far into the two adjoining counties. In fact it may be repeated that Paw Paw always was singularly fortunate with its doctors.

Unusual for the small town, Paw Paw has a fine greenhouse of which J. J. Bennett is the proprietor. His greenhouses have a demand for every bloom it can supply.

Mr. C. C. Faber beyond doubt enjoys one of the best trades in meats in Lee county. Not so very long ago, he was requested to ship clear back to Virginia, some of the meats of his preparing. Here, too, is a fine example of doing things down to date. Mr. Faber's market attracts people from those same three counties. We have seen in so many small villages how difficult it is to maintain a first-class market. Mr. Faber never has been confronted with that feature of the meat trade. He has large interest in lands up in Minnesota. The grain elevator of Frank E. Guffin and J. W. Banks, known to the trade as Warner and Guffin, does a very large business, not only in the shipment of grain, but in the sale of coal, and seeds and those kindred commodities which go

with them. Last year over 250,000 bushels of grain were shipped from this village and by this company alone. The proprietors own the elevator at Compton, just to the west and between both elevators these gentlemen have one of the best businesses.

Paw Paw is splendidly supplied with hotels and restaurants. The Detamore House is one and Mrs. E. M. Ransom is proprietor; the other is the Commercial House and Dallas McLaughlin is the proprietor. These two hotels stand side by side just to show that neither dislikes having rivals in business. Besides the hotels, there are lunch rooms kept by Thomas Harper and Fred Gehlfuss. The latter keeps a full line of fancy groceries besides. C. M. Gibbs sells cigars and confectionery and in connection with his grocery trade, H. R. Town sells confectionery and ice cream. Thus it may be seen that he who hungers can find no legitimate excuse for going hungry.

Paw Paw is the center of a large amount of building and to care for it, the village is especially well provided. Arthur S. Wells pays most of his attention to things built of cement and he is without doubt one of the best posted men in Lee county on cement and what may be done with it.

At a recent meeting of the board of supervisors of which he long has been a member, he was made superintendent of highways for Lee county at a salary of \$2,000.

Harry Prentice, E. J. Valentine, J. O. Morrow, H. G. Beach and C. C. Smith are contractors and builders. The telephone system which serves Paw Paw is the Northern Illinois Telephone Company which has headquarters at Sandwich.

Paw Paw is well cared for so far as lighting is concerned. The Paw Paw Electric Light Plant owned by Beemer Bros., composed of the brothers, J. J. and Harrison Beemer, have but lately established a plant here. Since opening for business the village is as well lighted as any other in the state.

I. H. Breese is the hardware man. This store also cares for tin work and plumbing.

The postoffice is managed in a very superior manner. Wilbur Woods, son of A. N. Woods, was assistant for a long while before his recent appointment, the first appointment of postmaster in the county. Mrs. Verna Woods is assistant.

The firm of J. M. Beale and Co. has been established here for a long while. They send their output to almost every state in the Union. Brick and drain tile are made by them in large quantities. Over at West Brooklyn they have another branch plant.



There are two very large general stores, one owned by Edwards and Case and the other by Chaffee and Faber. These two stores are large, and the stocks are very large and selected with especial care for the trade of that locality. In fact they are much larger than the average village store. The store that I am most familiar with, the one of Edwards and Case has made four generations wealthy.

Pratt & Hartwell carry a full line of jewelry, silverware and china. The drug, paint, oil, medicine, toilet articles and school book trade is very well provided for by Wilbur A. Pratt.

Hicks Brothers are the clothing dealers.

L. C. Coss and F. J. Adams are the barbers. W. H. Smith is the undertaker and in connection he handles a full line of furniture, carpets, rugs, curtains and paints and oils. Closely identified as a kindred business is the Williams & Henry establishment. These gentlemen are extensive painters, paper hangers and decorators.

Paw Paw has 800 inhabitants and being in line for all the down to date features which go with 800 people, she has a first class "Lyric Theatre." Mr. J. H. Hackman is proprietor of that. The movies and occasional vaudeville are put up here in the latest fashion.

The Beemer Brothers who run the electric light plant are proprietors also of the Paw Paw garage and it may as well be said at this point that this township of Wyoming owns and operates eighty automobiles and almost every business man in Paw Paw and many of the women own automobiles.

The *Lee County Times* is the only newspaper in Paw Paw and it enjoys a splendid patronage both in circulation and in job work. Ed F. Guffin, chairman of the republican county committee, is the owner and editor of it. Its history is quite fully noticed in another column. I am indebted to Mr. Guffin to a very large extent for facts obtained which went into this history. He and Mr. J. H. LaPorte approached every business proprietor and obtained the facts needed to make this chapter. Moreover, Mr. Guffin loaned me several copies of his files from which to derive facts I needed very much. I desire to thank him for his kindness, right here. His office turns out some of the best job work in the county and the paper turns out some of the best reading matter to be found. The paper is very ably edited. From these and the geologically added fact, Mr. Guffin's office is one of the most profitable offices in the county. Paw Paw is singularly fortunate in its tributary country.

But Paw Paw is still more fortunate in possessing the business people who know how to handle it.

Fred Henry is proprietor of the boot and shoe store and he also handles the repairing for the community.

S. Baker is the proprietor of a flour and feed store. Julius Schamberger is a merchant tailor. R. L. Tarr has a large agricultural implement house. Clemons Bros. operate a very large shoeing and blacksmithing business. Another one is carried on over at Compton.

Wayne Pierce operates the North Side Billiard Parlor.

Ellen C. Mitchell is proprietor of a millinery store. A. L. Coakes repairs and tunes pianos and organs. Snow Brothers is another firm. Harper & Stroyan are proprietors of the livery, feed and sale business. J. W. Mayor has the harness and blanket store. Beginning with the hay that the farm animals eat, we find F. Flewellin, the hay dealer. For years Wyoming township produced some of the best pure bred horses and cattle one might find. J. W. Larabee has a large herd of red polled cattle with which he has met great success at the various fairs.

J. W. Lambkin has gathered around him a splendid herd of pure bred Herefords. In making his selections, he has secured the best animals both on blood lines and individual merit. This has been the home of Herefords for half a century, but Mr. Lambkin has assembled the best herd of all that period.

J. T. Epila is proprietor of the West Side Stock Farm. He raises and trains and drives fast horses. I should like to stop and talk a little while about the fine horses which have been developed by Paw Paw men, but it cannot be done.

George W. Frey & Co. are large buyers of poultry and eggs. Mr. M. D. Warren is the manager. F. R. Mead is proprietor of the Paw Paw dairy. Mr. J. C. Miller long has been a successful horse buyer. He buys and ships for market.

D. L. Hartwell has a jewelry shop at which watches and jewelry are repaired.

There are three churches here at present: the Methodist, Rev. O. T. Canfield, pastor; First Presbyterian, Rev. C. H. Miller, pastor; and the Baptist, Rev. J. B. Martine, pastor. There are three cemeteries in Wyoming township—Wyoming, Harding and Cottage Hill.

The Pogue Brothers Lumber Company, dealers in coal, lumber, lath and building material, have an office here. Besides they are

engaged in business at Hinckley, and at Waterman over in DeKalb county.

G. C. Schreck has a large blacksmithing and horseshoeing business.

In commenting on the postoffice it was my plan to state the business of this well managed office. The number of outgoing pieces of mail, first class, for one year were 100,000; the number of second class, 6,000; the number of third class, 2,000; the number of parcels post, 4,500. The record of the incoming is as follows: First class pieces, 80,000; second class, 75,000; third, 45,000; parcels post, 7,000. The total receipts for the year were \$2,600. This volume indicates plainer than words the amount of business the village does.

Paw Paw has a right to be proud of her schools. It holds one of the best buildings in the county. W. C. Duff is the superintendent; Mrs. W. C. Suft is principal; Miss Elizabeth Turner is assistant principal. A four-year course is taught in the high school. Besides there are four rooms in each of which two grades are taught. In the first or primary grade there are today nineteen pupils, eight boys and eleven girls; in the second grade there are five boys and six girls. Miss Erma Lowrey teaches these two grades. Grade three has nine boys and six girls. Grade four has eleven boys and nine girls. Miss Gertie Smith teaches these two grades. Grade five has six boys and eight girls. Sixth grade has six boys and twelve girls. Miss Avis Adams teaches these two grades. In the high school for the first year there are five boys and nine girls. In the second year there are eight boys and seven girls. In the third year there six boys and six girls. In the last year there are five boys and eight girls. Total enrollment, 175.

Paw Paw is a great village for lodge work. Anchor lodge 510, I. O. O. F., is a very large order. Its officers are H. H. Rowland, N. G.; F. A. LaPorte, V. G.; E. J. Kirk, Recording secretary; D. R. McLaughlin, financial secretary; A. C. McBride, treasurer; D. R. McLaughlin, official examiner, instructor and representative to the Grand Lodge.

Officers of Paw Paw Encampment are E. J. Kirk, C. P.; C. C. Tarbell, H. P.; R. L. Tarr, S. W.; G. C. Schrock, J. W.; D. R. McLaughlin, Scribe; Albert N. Woods, Treasurer; L. A. Coss, representative to the Grand Encampment; D. R. McLaughlin, official examiner and instructor.

Officers of Paw Paw Rebekah Lodge 264 are Mrs. A. R. Kelley, N. G.; Mrs. Fred Lilly, V. G.; Miss Vida Radley, F. S.; Mrs.



R. L. Tarr, treasurer; Mrs. M. D. Warren, representative to the Rebekah Assembly.

Officers of Paw Paw Camp 4453, R. N. A., are Lula Rosenkrans, Oracle; Nettie Fightmaster, Vice Oracle; Jessie Barstow, Chancellor; Lettie G. Hyde, Recorder; Grace Baker, Receiver; Grace Rogers, Marshal; Mittie Lilly, I. S.; A. M. Carnahan, Manager 1; Florence Clemons, 2; Rose Hammond, 3; Wilbur M. Avery, physician.

Officers of the M. W. A. are A. M. Carnahan, Consul; F. D. Rogers, Adviser; Byron Rosenkrans, Banker; George E. Hyde, Clerk; Willis Hinke, Escort; W. T. Fightmaster, Watchman; Frank Ambler, Sentry; Dr. W. M. Avery, physician; F. D. Rogers, B. F. Ambler and W. T. Fightmaster, board of managers.

Officers of Corinthian Lodge 205, A. F. & A. M., are C. F. Preston, W. M.; E. N. Gibbs, S. W.; A. C. McBride, treasurer; H. L. Case, secretary; F. J. Adams, S. D.; G. A. Ramer, J. D.; Charles Gibbs, marshal; J. C. Shamberger, chaplain; Dallas McLaughlin, S. S.; E. P. Fleming, J. S.

Officers of Foster Chapter 331, O. E. S., are Bertha Wheeler, W. M.; Ed F. Guffin, W. P.; Alice Ramer, A. M.; Libbie Stetler, treasurer; E. Maude Pogue, secretary; Addie Guffin, Conductor; Josephine Pratt, A. C.; May Pierce, warder; Frank Wheeler, sentry; Lillian Hammond, chaplain; Bertha Mills, Ada; Mary Hartwell, Ruth; Stella Case, Esther; Pearl Crowell, Martha; Helena Clemons, Electa.

The State Bank of Paw Paw is one of the strongest banks in the state. In a little village of 800 this bank on October 30 made a statement which totaled \$416,253.31. But more than this: its stockholders are men of such business strength, that were they called to pay the last depositor and to the last cent, they could do it without very much effort. Just a little while ago, Mr. J. B. McBride, the vice president, died. He was one of the biggest of all our big Lee county men. He had led a long and quiet life in Paw Paw. He had been generous and public spirited. When his estate was inventoried a short while ago it footed \$180,000, and but a few years ago he divided between his children, so I am told, a large fortune. All made in Paw Paw. The cash reserve held in this bank runs all the way from 35 to 60 per cent. The bank enjoys the comfortable distinction of being able to take any good loan that comes along. If a certain reserve was desired, several stockholders could make the loan out of their own funds. It's a wonderful bank.



In 1882 this bank was founded by M. M. Morse and P. C. Ransom under the name of "Union Bank." A couple of years later, Mr. Ransom retired. In 1886, B. J. Wheeler and Teal Swarthout, who were partners known as B. J. Wheeler & Co., bought the bank and continued it under the name of the Union bank. This firm continued the business until 1901 when the partners, with others organized the present State Bank with a capital of \$25,000, which capital was increased to \$40,000.

In 1902 the First National Bank was organized, but during the same year the banks consolidated and increased the capital of the present bank to \$50,000. The officers and directors who direct its affairs are: President, B. J. Wheeler; A. C. McBride, cashier; Frank Wheeler, assistant cashier; all of whom are directors besides S. B. Miller, W. M. Goble, W. T. Chaffee and J. H. LaPorte. The surplus is \$15,000.













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